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SOCCER

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES BOOST

**BY LOU GAUTIER**

SOCCER could soon be included in the programme of the Commonwealth Games.

A meeting of Commonwealth sports ministers at the completion of the Games in Auckland raised the possibility of adding soccer.

This is part of a plan to enhance the appeal of the Commonwealth Games to a broader cross-section of Commonwealth sports fans, particularly the Afri-

can nations.

At present, the charter of the Commonwealth Games Federation forbids team sports.

However, several representatives of Commonwealth countries are pushing hard for soccer's inclusion.

Soccer, they believe, will lift the profile of the Commonwealth Games as well as improve the chances of increasing revenue from television rights and corporate sponsorship.

The African countries are convinced they cannot stage the Commonwealth Games without a soccer competition.

To date the only non-white Commonwealth country to have staged the Games is Jamaica, in 1966.

**CONTINUED ON
PAGE 17**



Ian Brusasco



Milan Blagojevic (right) gives chase to Melita Eagles' Sergio Falce at Lambert Park last Sunday. Apia won 2-1 to retain first place in the QNSL — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

QNSL chief backs changes

BY GREG BLAKE

ASW Editor Keith Gilmour's insight into the expectations surrounding the study on soccer by ASF management consultant, Dr Graham Bradley, made for interesting reading.

One of the interested readers was QNSL chairman Sam Papasavas, who, in recent times, has made public his feelings on where the game should be heading.

Papasavas has advocated some quite startling changes to the game itself, ideas initiated by Melbourne Croatia star Alan Davidson in his weekly newspaper column in Melbourne.

The changes include three points per win and penalty shoot-outs to decide drawn league games.

Dr Bradley's study, commissioned by the ASF, might or might not be made public when it is completed after some five months of work.

But Papasavas is sure to be pushing hard for even more radical changes to be adopted when the report is completed.

"It is up to the commissioners as to whether the report is made public or not," Papasavas told ASW recently.

"And I certainly cannot pre-empt what the commission will do or decide.

"But we all agree that some changes have to be made and in the final analysis this man has the credentials to suggest he knows what he is doing."

Bradley, a lecturer in Economics at the University of NSW was the man in the forefront of a similar report on rugby league and his recommendations, which were adopted by RL authorities, have boosted the game to new levels of success.

"I hope we can achieve that same sort of success," says Papasavas.

"I'd like to see soccer move ahead and quickly and I'd like to see the sort of changes that will push the game into a new era."

"I still believe the game is being run as it was in 1948 and that is just not good enough any more."

"That is why I'm looking forward to seeing the report from Dr Bradley."

"As I said, I can't pre-empt what the commission will do but I will say that I personally expect to see some quite radical changes made."

BIGGEST SELLING SOCCER NEWSPAPER RIGHT ACROSS AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIA'S BEST NATIONAL LEAGUE COVER — and going further ahead!

The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming?

BY LOU GAUTIER



VALENTIN IVANOV

AUSTRALIAN soccer could follow New Zealand's lead and strengthen its ties with the Soviet Union.

Australia may go the same route as the New Zealanders, who are to benefit from the expertise of Soviet coaches and also tour the USSR regularly.

Torpedo Moscow officials have invited the Socceroos to play

six games in the USSR, an invitation which will be discussed by the ASF commissioners at their next meeting.

What with glasnost and perestroika dramatically opening up the Soviet Union to the world, there is also a good possibility Soviet players could be lured to the National League.

Actually, the whole of what used to be the

"Soviet Bloc" could be a great source of players for Australian clubs.

Good standard level First Division players not only from the USSR, but also Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria could be lured to Australia.

Several have already joined clubs in the less than glamorous South Korean, Japanese and even Malaysian leagues, so why not the ONSL?

It would just take one progressive Australian club to get the ball rolling and start a mass exodus to Australia.

Marconi, with their Czechoslovakian connections, is a prime example.

Olympic are also reported to be intested in signing a couple of the

recent Torpedo Moscow tourists, who are said to be keen to return as visa players.

Literally dozens of players of the class of the Torpedo tourists would be more than willing to play here.

Torpedo officials have been impressed by the standard of Australian soccer, especially the Socceroos.

Head coach Valentin Ivanov claims the Australian side that beat his team 3-0 in Melbourne would be the equal or better of the fourth tier of European soccer nations — the likes of Norway, Greece or Switzerland.

Ivanov, incidentally, is reported to be interested in the Soccer-o coaching position and may apply for it.



Torpedo goalie Sarichev: he could be joining an Australian club in the near future — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

FIFA recognises agents

BY LOU GAUTIER

FIFA, has called for the legalising of agents because their services, while officially banned, are in widespread use.

National federations should license professional agents who set up transfers of players and coaches and charge deposits on their deals, rather than letting them make uncontrolled profits in a "haze of illegality," FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter

said.

Blatter, writing in FIFA's latest newsletter, portrayed the proposal as necessary to keep the commercialisation of soccer from tainting the sport.

He said an unprecedented number of transfer agents — talent scouts for players and coaches — are in business despite an article in FIFA rules banning their services.

Agents now exist in all branches of the economy," Blatter said.

The Australian Soccer Federation has such agents arranging tours to Australia.

However, a more professional approach must be adopted to bring top-class teams to Australia.

We have reached the stage where national teams should be given preference.

A club tour, here and there is fine, but only full internationals will bring out the crowds — and provide meaningful opposition for the Socceroos.

Filan takes flight

BY KEITH GILMOUR

FEW Australian soccer footballers are able to look back and say that they represented their state against a classy European touring team at the tender age of 19.

But young St George goalkeeper John Filan can.

Filan turned out for NSW, playing half a game against Torpedo at Brandon Park, Wollongong, on Wednesday January 31.

Last Thursday he reached the ripe old age of 20.

How did he find the Russians in the big game?

"They were all classy players. The goals they put past me didn't give me the ghost of a chance."

It is quite a jump to be playing one year for NSW State League Second Division winners and the next for St George in the NSL and then for NSW.

But behind John Filan's progress is the almost inevitable arms of the St George coaching team.

Frank Arok first scouted him out after he had appeared in the NSW under 16 team.

With Socceroo second keeper Mike Gibson holding down the St George keeper's position and George Bouhoutos in the wings, Filan moved to Sydney Macedonia for a season.



JOHN FILAN

The loan move was painless, as former Saints defender and assistant coach Frank Lang was on the job at Macedonia.

Filan's big chance at St George Stadium arrived when the tough Gibson couldn't front this year, due to a bad knee injury.

His present goalkeeping coach, Fred Wall, sees it this way.

"Filan's dedication is unbelievable. In the run to the Torpedo game he either played or trained on 13 consecutive days. All I can say is that it is a pleasure to coach him. He has unlimited potential."

He is a lad who began playing at five years of age for St Michaels Meadowbank before joining Carlingford Redbacks.

Through his junior years he represented Gladesville-Hornsby before joining the Saints at 16. He played for NSW as a junior at under 13, 16 and 18, and was on duty for the Australia Youth team in the 1988 Oceania World

Youth Cup in Suva, Fiji in September 1988.

Australia won through after winning the Oceania/Asia series, but failed to qualify for the finals in Saudi Arabia, with Syria running out first, Qatar second, Australia third and New Zealand fourth.

Obviously, the international experience he received in that tournament has stood him in good stead.

But Fred Wall isn't the only specialist goalkeeping coach that has helped in Filan's development.

"I was fortunate to come under John McDonald early in my career."

"He certainly helped me along the right path."

Just turned 20, John Filan has the world — and the ball — at his fingertips.

But the scene through his eyes is a simple one.

"My first aim is to cement my first team position at St George."

"Other than that, if you don't enjoy it — why do it?"

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"Georgie Girl" Mary

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Mary Shatila hugs the love of her life, soccer idol George Best.

MARY SHATILA, the constant lady companion over the last three years of world-famous soccer idol George Best, has not tired yet of the jet-set, hectic-paced lifestyle her colourful boyfriend leads.

International airports, taxis, hotels, restaurants, TV networks, football stadiums, coaching clinics and a multitude of sports dinners all over the world have become part and parcel of Mary's life of late as she travels the globe with George Best.

Mary, a vivacious 31-year-old, tall and slender with the model look, was born in England.

Together with George, Mary is in partnership of a bar and restaurant in downtown London.

ASW caught up with Mary in her room at Sydney's Camperdown Travelodge Motel for a brief chat last night.

"Yes, life and travelling with George can be hectic and tiring at times but I still love it," she said.

And how did Mary meet her former Manchester United megastar?

At a soccer match?

Not so.

"I met George

through a girlfriend of mine.

"I never liked or followed soccer before I met him."

With Best's play-boy reputation and extra good looks, which has attracted extreme adulation from thousands of females the world over, including the attention of no less than THREE former Miss Worlds, how does Mary cope with such unenviable 'pressure'?

"It doesn't bother me at all.

"It is because of the simple fact that I know he is not interested in anyone else.

"I think this is because I am not a liberated woman at all.

"When we do travel and George is happy, then I am happy.

"He is my only concern," commented Mary.

Mary, together with George and fellow Scottish international, Denis ('The Lawman') Law, zipped through Sydney, making



George and Mary at a press conference.

appearances at different venues, attending coaching clinics as well as the latter two playing in the charity match for the Lidcombe Hospital Head Injury Unit.

Today (Wednesday), the Best and Law Show flew out of Sydney for Adelaide for a further string of appearances.

And as always, Mary is there.

Mary, the girl from London, if you like, is Best's minder.

DENIS LAW, despite having seen 49 summers and knocking up the 'Magic 50' next week, doesn't look a day older than when he starred for Scotland and Manchester United in the 60s and early 70s.

The 'Lawman' in Sydney last week with his old United teammate, George Best for after-dinner engagements and TV appearances, had the press and audiences rocking with non-stop laughter as he repeatedly knocked in one-liners left and right, heavily sprinkled with nostalgic references to Scotland and Manchester United of his era.

In a brief chat with this most jovial blond Scot, who wore the famous No 10 shirt for his country on no less than 55 occasions scoring stacks of goals, especially in the air, the 'Lawman' told ASW that Real Madrid's Alfredo Di Stefano was the best player he had seen.

And what about Denis' favourite manager?

"You just couldn't go past Bill Shankly and Sir Matt Busby," he said.

"I had 'Shanks' when I was at Huddersfield of course before he moved and became a legend at Liverpool.

"You have to mention the late Jock Stein there somewhere as well.

"And as far as the highs in my career, well there have been many.

"My first games for United and Scotland, winning FA Cups with United, the European Cup in 1968 despite the fact that I missed the final through in-

jury and, of course, coming back from Torino to join Manchester United.

"Yes, there have been many highs for me," reminisced the great 'Lawman'.

ASW then caught Denis a little off-guard (if that's possible) when we fired in the following: "In Scotland's World Cup qualifier at Hampden Park against Czechoslovakia back in 1973, striker Joe Jordan scored the winner with a crashing header to take the match 2-1.

"Immediately you turned from Czechoslovakia's box and raced to the huge crowd with outstretched arms despite the fact that you were not the one that scored.

"What raced through your mind at that very moment?"

"Oh yeah, I was just so overcome with uncontrollable joy.

"You see, there were only 10 minutes to go and Scotland had not qualified for the World Cup finals for a long time.

"Big Joe's goal meant that we were going to West Germany at last and it was even more emotional for me because it was at a time when my career was coming to an end."

Do you have any desire to become a manager?



Denis Law (centre) with Sydney Olympic's young publicity officer Anthony Stavrinou and club president George Pashalis.

"None whatsoever.

"I am still very much involved with soccer through television and radio with commentary work."

Why does Soccer lack so many big starring personalities like it had in your era?

"I think soccer today is more organised, over-coached and a different attitude prevails.

"Today the emphasis is on NOT losing.

"In my day it was GO OUT and WIN no matter what.

"Over-coaching has obviously killed off the individual flair in most players."

How will Scotland go in Italy at the World

Cup finals?

"I think we will go into the second round easily," he shot back immediately.

"We have Costa Rica, Brazil and Sweden, and three points should see us into the next round at least."

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NOTICE TO UNDER 16 PLAYERS

Trials will commence on Monday 12th March, 1990 for the State Under 16 team.

They will be held at Valentine Park, Parklea on Monday 12th-19th March, at 6.30pm.

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Apia Leichhardt	15	9	4	2	24	12	22
Melbourne Croatia	16	8	4	4	32	19	20
*Adelaide City	15	8	4	3	24	14	20
South Melbourne	16	8	3	5	21	15	19
**Marconi	14	6	6	2	27	14	18
*Sydney Olympic	15	7	3	5	22	12	17
Preston	16	7	3	6	19	18	17
*Sydney Croatia	15	6	2	7	22	24	14
Sunshine GC	16	5	4	7	20	26	14
*Melita Eagles	15	4	4	7	11	17	12
**St George	14	3	5	6	16	25	11
*Wollongong City	15	4	3	8	12	24	11
*Adelaide Hellas	15	4	2	9	16	29	10
*Blacktown City	15	2	3	10	16	33	7

* One game in hand
** Two games in hand

Results

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (P. Carter) MELBOURNE CROATIA 5 (F. Awaritefe 3, Z. Adzic, I. Duzel) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 596.
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1 (J. Faulkner) SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (P. Ricoy, M. Lamond) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 1500.
APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (B. Ellem, A. Genc o.g) MELITA EAGLES 1 (G. Brown) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2327.
PRESTON 2 (S. Smith 2) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 3000 (est).
ADELAIDE CITY 3 (S. Maxwell 2, A. Vidmar) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 6000 (est).

Marconi v St George and Sydney Olympic v Adelaide Hellas postponed because of rain.

Crowds

ROUND 16: 13,387*
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,677
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 329,302**

* Only five matches — Marconi v St George and Sydney Olympic v St George washed out.
** Six postponed games to be played.

Teams and players of Round 15 and 16 will be published when all deferred matches have been staged.

Top Scorers

Zlatko Nasteovski	(Marconi)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia Leichhardt)	10
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	8
Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	8
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	8
Steve Smith	(Preston)	8

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes Letters to the Editor.

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They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.

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Crackerjack clash at Somers Street



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

THE momentum for the top positions quickens this weekend as Round 17 of the Quit National Soccer League sees four of the five leading teams do battle in Melbourne.

While Apia, Marconi, South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia sort out their differences at the head of the table, across in Adelaide, the relegation tussle between Blacktown City and Adelaide Hellas should reach Cup tie proportions.

The Demons' first trip to Adelaide this season will be coach Walter Tamandl's biggest test to date as he attempts to rally his troops for their most important game of the season.

Despite the presence of Soccerroo captain Charlie Yankos, Blacktown's defence was in a shambles against the irresistible Melbourne Croatia last weekend, and the injury to keeper Steve Mautone just compounded the problems at the back.

Hellas must keep an eye on Geoff Gunning who in the early stages against Croatia threatened to tear their defence apart and with a little luck the result may have been much different.

If Mautone is not fit Bill Londos will be the obvious choice as his replacement for the Demons.

Survival

Although Blacktown will be playing for their survival, at home Hellas have beaten Preston and Apia in their last two starts and will go into this clash as slight favourites.

Weather permitting, St George get their first taste of action in almost three weeks when they host Sunshine on Friday at St George Stadium.

The loss of Jeff Faulkner to the Victorian State League is a disappointing blow to Sunshine but Gary Hasler will be back after suspension and John Waddell should return into a defence that was unsteady against Sydney Croatia last week.

The points are invaluable to both sides — if Sunshine lose, their challenge for the Top Five will virtually be snuffed out while the Saints are fighting for their future in the top league.

The lack of match practice can only count against the Saints and Sunshine should be expected to get both points.

Adelaide City, fresh from their stunning win over South Melbourne last week, travel to meet the rejuvenated Sydney Croatia at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Chance

Under new coach Tony Vrzina, Croatia have gone four matches without defeat and with a game in hand are still an outside chance to grab a semi spot.

With players of the calibre of Alan Hunter, Graham Arnold and Tony Franken playing so well, the Croatia machine is beginning to hum and Manis Lamond has once again found his scoring touch.

However, their big test will come against City who have not conceded a goal in a month.

Adelaide City, too, will be brimming with confidence as they downed Croatia 3-1 back in Round 4 and should be a little too classy for the home side.

Wollongong, without a win at home since December, and only one goal in their six matches, face the out-of-touch Sydney Olympic at Brandon Park.

Both sides are in a slump, with Olympic dropping just out of the Top Five after leading a few weeks ago and Wollongong have drifted towards the danger zone.



Melita Eagles goalkeeper Alex McPherson directs traffic against Apia last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

A little unlucky to go down in the final minutes to Preston last week, the Wolves will again be out for vital points against an Olympic side which has lost its last four games away from home.

The visitors perched just outside the Top Five should win, but the Wolves are always difficult to toss in their own back yard.

Timely

Preston halted their bad run of late when Smith broke through twice in the last five minutes to cast the Wolves aside last Sunday and could hope for the timely return at last from the bench of their star Oscar Crino for the Melita match.

Melita at home may

be too determined for their more fancied opponents and could surprise on Sunday.

Melita, whose slim finals hopes vanished at Lambert Park last week, must now concentrate on staying clear of the bottom when they take on the inconsistent Preston.

On show will be two of the League's top scorers, Greg Brown for Melita and Steve Smith for Preston, who both took their tally to eight after goals in last week's round.

Big game

The big game on Saturday is between leaders Apia and fourth-placed South Melbourne at Middle Park.

Apia, with the best defensive record in the

league, poses a problem for South Melbourne coach Ferenc Puskas, who must remedy his side's recent shyness in front of goal.

The league leaders got back on the winning trail last week with a narrow win over the tenacious Melita, but Hellas will prove a more difficult proposition.

Apia have never won against Hellas in Melbourne and South remain unbeaten at home this season. Back in round 4, the teams played out a 0-0 draw and a similar result appears likely this weekend.

The most outstanding match of round 17 should be the clash of defending champions Marconi and the pretenders to the throne, Melbourne Croatia.

The Rolls Royce outfit of Melbourne Croatia put Blacktown through the ringer last week, showing no mercy to the troubled wooden spooners.

Francis Awaritefe is back poaching goals around the box and Zeljko Adzic continues to knock the goals in with monotonous regularity.

Marconi, on the other hand, will have their work cut out, no games for three weeks due to the weather and without a win since the beginning of January does not augur well for the champions.

Melbourne Croatia have not beaten Marconi for three years but should win on Sunday in what should be a crackerjack match at Somers Street.

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PROGRESSIVE SCORES

NAME	CLUB	GAMES	AVE
1. JOHN FILAN	St George	15	6.64
2. ALEX McPHERSON	Melita	15	6.36
3. TONY PEZZANO	Apia	15	6.23

GOALKEEPER OF THE WEEK

TONY PEZZANO

Sydney Croatia make it four victories in a row

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

SYDNEY Croatia maintained its four-match unbeaten run under new coach Tony Vrzina after a solid 2-1 victory against Sunshine George Cross, played in wintry conditions at Skinner Reserve last Saturday afternoon.

Since Vrzina has taken over the coaching reins at the troubled Sydney outfit, it has turned from a relegation candidate to a top five contender, which is a credit to the 52-year-old Victorian stalwart coach.

Sunshine's dream of a finals berth was severely dented after successive defeats, which is unfortunate for Georgie fans because their team played well enough to deserve at least a point.

Georgie's veteran midfielder Jeff Faulkner, in his last game before retiring, showed the way to his side with four shots on goal in the opening half hour, including a 14th minute goal.

Striker Paul Foster took a swipe from just inside the area which was only parried by Croatia's keeper Anthony Franken. Faulkner seized onto the loose ball before unleashing a fine left foot shot into the far top corner of the net.

Faulkner almost made his departure even more memorable when he embarked on a dashing solo run down the left before hitting a lovely left foot drive that had to be saved in fine style by Franken diving to his right.

Croatia finally got into the match to dominate the last 15 minutes of the first half,

mainly through some hard work by big defender Velimir Kupresak and forward Graham Arnold.

Kupresak narrowly missed the target with a 10-metre volley directly from a Manis Lamond cross deep on the left side.

Then Arnold came close on two occasions before setting up the equaliser from midfielder Pedro Ricoy in the 35th minute. Arnold shielded off a defender with his back to goal before releasing a short pass to Ricoy, who ran in and cracked a low left foot shot into the near corner of the net from

just inside the area.

A poor goalkick by Keogh allowed Arnold to intercept and send a powerful 25-metre shot that Keogh did well to parry for a corner.

Arnold again sent flutters into Georgie supporters' hearts with a goalbound header that was cleared off the line by defender Sean Parton in the 68th minute.

Croatia's winning goal arrived in the 75th minute from a break-away move after some sustained Sunshine pressure.

A long clearance was delightfully headed down by striker David Seal into the path of

Lamond who dashed away from two opponents into the area before finding the far corner of the net with a low left footer.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7, Campbell 6, Roodhouse 6, Ketsakidis 5, Parton 6, Faulkner 7, Kindtner 7, (Zachariar 80m), Foster 6, (Waddell 70m) Carter 6, Clarkson 7, Tapai 6.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 7, Savor 7, Grbevski 7, Hunter 7, Jones 6, Kupresak 7, Ricoy 6, Petkovic 5, (Rumora 81m) Arnold 7, Seal 6, (Gojevic 86m) Lamond 7.

SCORERS: Faulkner 14m for Sunshine; Ricoy 35m and Lamond 75m for Sydney Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Seal 48m, Hunter 89m for Sydney Croatia.

REFEREE: J. Santa Isabel 7.

CROWD: 1,500 (estimate).



Apia's Brian Ellem in action against Melita Eagles at Lambert Park last Sunday. The talented young midfielder was against instrumental in the QNSL leaders' victory — Photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

Wolves blew it

BY GREG BLAKE

SHOULD Wollongong find itself on the wrong end of the relegation battle at season's end it can look fairly and squarely at the events of its 2-0 defeat last Sunday at Connor Reserve as the day it commenced kissing the QNSL goodbye.

Rarely does a side hold sway as Wollongong did for much of Sunday's game without success but in the end David Ratcliffe's charges might just as well have walked off the park for the final six minutes of the game.

If one thing is constant in a Preston supporter's life it is that Steve Smith will surely score if given enough opportunities.

'Smudger', as they call him up Preston way, is probably the best percentage shooter in the league.

By the 85th minute of last Sunday's game 'Smudger' had already recorded his two near-misses for the day, the closest chance coming just at half-time when he slid in to stab Martin Woodall's cross on to the underside of the Wollongong crossbar.

But with five minutes left, the previously almost impregnable Wollongong defence let down its guard and Smith struck like a cobra.

His first goal was a gem, a 'Smudger' special as he turned swiftly on a George Petrov pass and rifled his shot past a startled George Bouhoutsos.

But for Bouhoutsos, recently back from Greece and deemed ready for his first senior game by Ratcliffe, the worst was yet to come.

Two minutes later Bouhoutsos produced

the gaffe of the day when he kicked a clearance straight into Smith's path and the Preston striker, probably sporting a grin from ear to ear, promptly

Randall Easthorpe squandered two chances in the first 20 minutes, the second in the 20th minute when he popped an attempt over the bar from close range.



Steve Smith is full cry against Blacktown earlier this season. "Smudger" continued in his scoring vein, banging in two past Wollongong's George Bouhoutsos last Sunday.

ly stepped up and rammed a shot past the despairing keeper who ended the sequence laying face down on the turf and probably looking for a hole in the ground that might swallow him up.

For what it is worth to Wollongong fans, the visitors looked the goods before the night-mare finale.

Preston, despite the return of several of its injured brigade, struggled to hold a Wollongong team prepared to take the initiative despite its dismal record at Connor Reserve.

Paul McFadden saw plenty of action but lost confidence once inside the box and Tony Versi might have scored twice himself in the first half with both his efforts brilliantly thwarted by flying Phil Traianedes.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes 7, Runje 5, Jackson 6, Tacevski 6, Jolevski 7, Woodall 5 (Slifkas 68), Petrov 5, Temcev 3 (Metaxas 58), R. Markovac 7, Zinni 5, Smith 7.

WOLLONGONG: Bouhoutsos 4, Skeen 6, Brodnik 5, Ratcliffe 6, Vlietstra 7, Lloyd 6, Hristovski 5, Crainie 6, McFadden 5, Versi 5 (O'Neill 64), Easthorpe 5.

SCORERS: Smith 85m and 87m for Preston.

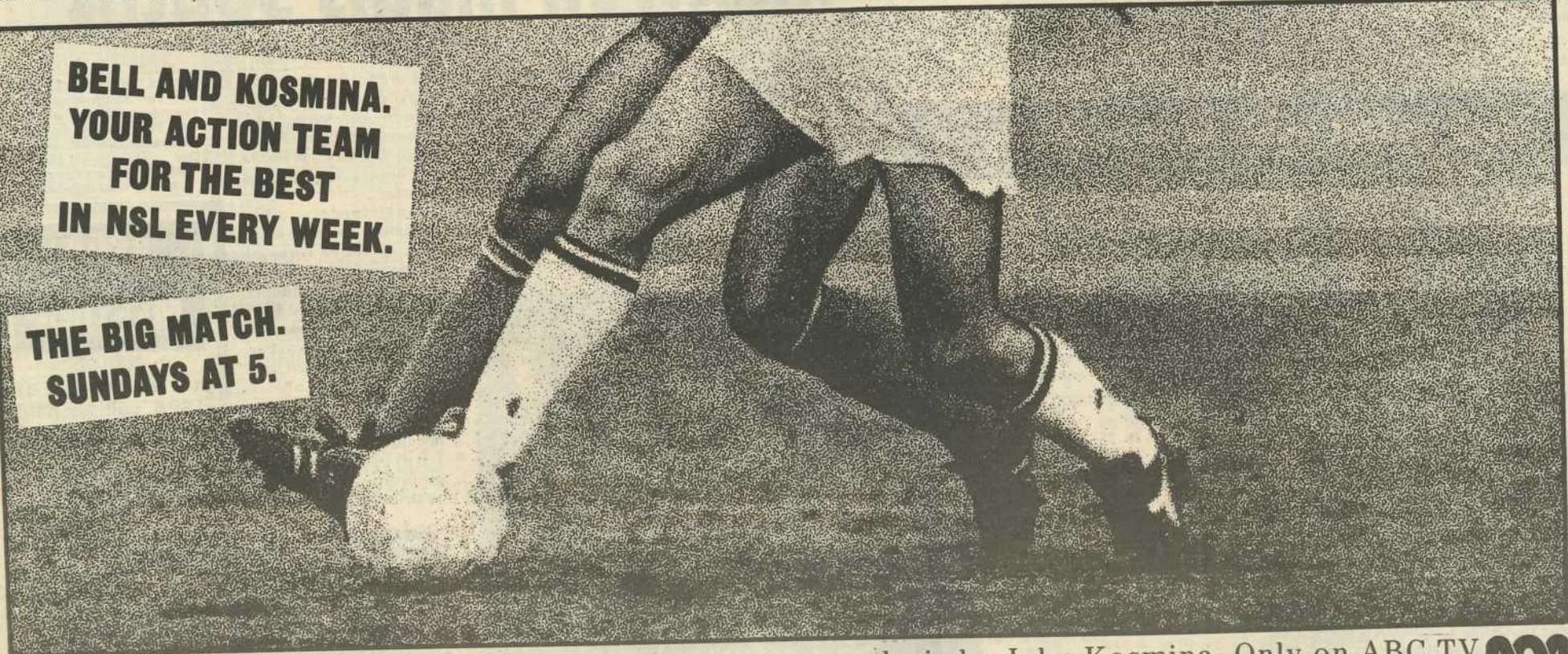
YELLOW CARDS: Woodall 2m, Runje 71m for Preston.

REFEREE: J. Fraser 6.

CROWD: 3800 (estimate).

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Lucky Apia still leads the QNSL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

A grateful Apia retained first place in the QNSL with a most fortunate 2-1 win over an unlucky Melita Eagles at Lambert Park on Sunday.

The luckless Melita missed three golden chances and also inadvertently opened the score with an 'own goal' to help the home team escape with both league points.

"That has been the story for Melita for most of the season," coach Raul Blanco lamented after the game.

"We play open aggressive soccer, create chances, yet come away empty-handed."

"It's the same old story. If you don't score from your chances, you lose..."

Melita, in fact, should have hit the lead as early as in the seventh minute through Aytec Genc.

The brilliant left midfielder, from only two metres out, blasted a hot shot at the target but Apia's ever-green, ever-alert goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano, spread himself spectacularly to block a certain goal.

The visitors courageously kept Apia scoreless in the first session but disaster struck Melita in the 64th minute.

Jason van Blerk raided down the left,



The Melita Eagles defence on tenterhooks against Apia last Sunday — HECTOR CAR-RASCO photo.

crossed into Melita's box where Genc under pressure from a lurking Alex Bundalo, horrendously headed into his own net just inside the left post.

Striving to nail the equaliser, Melita changed their shape to an adventurous 4-2-4 formation which understandably relinquished control of the midfield to a rampant Apia mid-field.

Not to be discour-

aged, Melita's pacy Argentine striker, Sergio Falce, came perilously close to equalising with a vicious 20-metre drive from an acute angle on the right, but he too was denied by a fully stretched Pezzano, gloving the ball around his post for a corner.

In the 85th minute, Apia increased their lead when a shot rifled in from the left by van Blerk was partly block-

ed by Melita's defence. The loose ball rolled to an unmarked Ellem, who was left with the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net from just two metres.

With two minutes left, Melita pulled back a goal through ace striker Greg Brown.

A fine cross whipped in from the left by substitute Anthony Parison saw Brown, in van Basten style, volley high into Apia's top right hand corner of the net.

With seconds left of play, Melita threatened again when Genc slammed from just 10 metres out only to see his shot flash centimetres outside Apia's left post.

APIA: Pezzano (8), Blagojevic (6), Stewart (6), Halliday (6), Jennings (6), Bundalo (8) (M Brown 89m), Ellem (6), Clinch (7), van Blerk (6), Manley (5) (McQuarrie 62m), Murray (7).

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson (6), Vial (5), Williams (7), Gonzales (6), O'Donnell (6), Gimenez (6), Mason (6), (Farrugia 75m), Genc (6), Soper (6) (Parison 56m), Falce (7), Brown (7).

SCORERS: Genc o.g. 64m, Ellem 85m for Apia; G Brown 88m for Melita.

YELLOW CARDS: Manley 29, Murray 78 for Apia; Brown 22 and Soper 34 for Melita.

REFEREE: J. McConnell 6. CROWD: 2327.

NEWLY appointed Blacktown City assistant coach Tony Henderson must have left the Gabbie Stadium wondering what he had let himself in for on Friday night after watching his defence present Melbourne Croatia with three first half gift goals which led them to a heavy 5-1 defeat.

This result entrenches the Demons to the bottom of the table with a mountain to climb if relegation is to be avoided but 'Hendo' does not think it's an impossible task.

"Sure it will be tough to survive," he said afterwards, "but if we can start making things happen instead of simply reacting to our opponents and stop giving away soft goals we can get out of this."

While the final scoreline might suggest otherwise, Blacktown did not play all that badly as Geoff Gunning could have put them ahead after only 10 minutes, but he saw his low drive cannon off the upright and was through again seconds later but shot just wide.

Those incidents

proved to be the turning point of the match.

Croatia came back with a series of fierce raids and opened the score in the 17th minute following a bad defensive mix-up which allowed Zeljko Adzic to beat Steve Mautone with a soft shot that trickled over the line.

But worse was to come for the Demons. Their defenders again failed to clear the danger after half an hour, giving Francis Awaritefe a golden opportunity to sneak in and stab home the first of his hat-trick.

With a minute remaining before half-time, Mautrone suffered a hip injury diving at the feet of George Hannah and Awaritefe was again on the spot to pick up the crumbs and scramble in Croatia's third.

Defender Kurt Reynolds took over the goalkeeping duties when Mautone was unable to continue after the break, but his replacement Dominic Longo was also forced to go off after just 13 minutes with a head gash which required three stitches.

Awaritefe completed his hat-trick in the 57th minute with the best

goal of the night after underrated midfielder Ivan Duzel brushed past three defenders with some dazzling close control near the byline before floating his cross for the striker to head in from close range.

With torrential rain lashing near deserted Gabbie Stadium, defender Paul Carter at least managed to lift some of the gloom in the 70th minute when he finished off a good build-up with a spectacular left foot drive from all of 25 metres to pull one back for the Demons, but Croatia responded in the last seven minutes with Duzel capping off a good performance by slamming home Adzic's good cross from the right.

BLACKTOWN: Mautone 5 (sub Longo 45m, sub Jee 58m), Carter 5, Yankos 4, Reynolds 5, Northam 4, Murphy 5, Gibson 4, Maier 5, Odzakovic 5, Arambasic 5, Gunning 5.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 6, Davidson 6, Talajic 6, Donnelly 5, Hannah 6, Duzel 7, Milosevic 6, Biskic 6 (Markovski 80m), Kelic 5, Adzic 6 (Selemides 86m), Awaritefe 7.

SCORERS: Adzic 17m, Awaritefe 30m, 45m, 57m, Duzel 83m for Croatia; Carter 70m for Blacktown.

YELLOW CARDS: Yankos 44m, Murphy 67m for Blacktown; Davidson 74m for Croatia.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc 7. CROWD: 596.

Maxwell mauls Souths

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City should mould a chunk of bronze into a statue of Steve Maxwell after their thrilling 3-0 victory over South Melbourne on Sunday at Hindmarsh.

Maxie, again a prince of poachers, was the difference between the teams.

That is no disrespect to the others.

Players on both sides played with coolness, composure and class in a memorable game for fans and purists.

But the raw power of Maxwell, where it counts around the penalty area, was what separated the sides.

He killed off Ferenc Puskas' side's flowery approach with two second-half goals.

Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar had put South Melbourne on the ropes just four minutes after the interval with a fierce header from

a Joe Mullen cross.

Then Maxie, in the middle of a purple scoring patch, took over.

He blazed City two ahead only a minute after Sergio Melta had stopped a net-bound Steve Blair header on the line.

The goal will not be remembered fondly by South Melbourne as Maxwell, unchallenged, swivelled to hammer home a long Paul Shillabeer throw-in.

Just five minutes later it was all over.

Maxwell teased Mehmet Durakovic out on the left, committed and beat him before slicing a shot past startled Bruce McLaren.

It just was not going to be South Melbourne's night. That was epitomised just before time when Angie Postecoglou hit a post with a penalty kick after Robert Zabica hauled down Joe Palatsides.

Ferenc Puskas' men played with style and endeavour with Mike Petersen, Paul Wade and Danny Wright orchestrating skilled attacks.

But, largely, they perished on the solid City defensive rocks of Socceroo Alex Tobin and Neville Flounders or were squandered by a poor final pass or shot.

Kim Taliadoros had scorned two golden first half chances and a Wade 30-metre screamer after the interval was just off target.

But City always seemed to have the edge on determination.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica (7), Shillabeer (6), T. Vidmar (6) (Villani 77), Tobin (7), Flounders (7), Melta (6), Santrac (7), Veart (6), Mullen (6), Maxwell (8), T. Vidmar (7).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: McLaren (6), Healy (7), Postecoglou (6), Durakovic (7), Blair (7), Wade (6), Taliadoros (6), Petersen (7), Wright (7), Palatsides (6), Tsolakis (6).

SCORERS: A. Vidmar 49m, Maxwell 64m and 69m for City.

YELLOW CARDS: Blair 23m for South Melbourne, Flounders 41m for Adelaide City, Petersen 74m for South Melbourne, Santrac 84m for City.

REFEREE: Gary Power 7. CROWD: 6000 (estimated).

ASPA MEETING

A meeting of ASPA will be held at the Journalists' Club in Chalmers Street at Central Railway, Sydney, on Tuesday, February 20 at 6.30pm.

All members and media people interested in joining ASPA (Australian Soccer Press Association) are invited to attend.

Weekend fixtures



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WOLLONGONG CITY v APIA LEICHHARDT Brandon Park 5.30pm
(Deferred match from Round 15)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

ST GEORGE v SUNSHINE GC St George Stadium 7.30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

SOUTH MELBOURNE v APIA LEICHHARDT Middle Park 6pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

WOLLONGONG CITY v SYDNEY OLYMPIC Brandon Park 5.30pm

MELITA EAGLES v PRESTON Melita Stadium 6pm

ADELAIDE HELLAS v BLACKTOWN CITY Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

MELBOURNE CROATIA v MARCONI Somers Street 6pm

SYDNEY CROATIA v ADELAIDE CITY Croatian Sports Centre 7pm

SOCCER POOLS



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 10/2/90 — WEEK 237

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 238 SAT 17 FEBRUARY

CRYSTAL P.	ROCHDALE	1
WEST BROM.	ASTON VILLA	2
NOTTINGHAM F.	CHELSEA	3
BLACKBURN	PORT VALE	4
BRADFORD C.	OXFORD UTD.	5
HULL	PORTSMOUTH	6
IPSWICH	LEEDS	7
STOKE	WOLVES	8
BURY	TRANMERE	9
CARDIFF	CREWE	10
CHESTER	SHREWSBURY	11
FULHAM	NOTTS C.	12
HUDDERSFIELD	MANSFIELD	13
NORTHAMPTON	BOLTON	14
CHESTERFIELD	WREXHAM	15
EXETER	MAIDSTONE	16
GILLINGHAM	YORK	17
GRIMSBY	BURNLEY	18
HALIFAX	ALDERSHOT	19
HEREFORD	HARTLEPOOL	20
LINCOLN	COLCHESTER	21
PETERBORO	CARLISLE	22
SCARBORO	TORQUAY	23
ASHFORD	WORCESTER	24
ATHERSTONE	RUGBY	25
BROMSGROVE	ALVECHURCH	26
BURTON A.	WEYMOUTH	27
CAMBRIDGE C.	WEALDSTONE	28
DARTFORD	DOVER	29
GLOUCESTER	CHELMSFORD	30
GOSPORT	CORBY	31
GRAVESEND	BATH	32
MOOR GREEN	DORCHESTER	33
WATERLOO	CRAWLEY	34
AYLESBURY	SLOUGH	35
BISHOPS S.	DULWICH	36
BOGNOR R.	LEYTON W'TE	37
BRIMLEY	ST. ALBANS	38

RESERVE MATCHES

CARSHALTON	HENDON	39
ABERDEEN	CELTIC	40
DUNDEE U.	ST. MIRREN	41
HIBERNIAN	DUNFERMLINE	42
MOTHERWELL	DUNDEE	43
RANGERS	HEARTS	44
AIRDRIE	PARTICK	45
ALLOA	ALBION R.	46
AYR	FORFAR	47
CLYDE	HAMILTON	48
FALKIRK	CLYDEBANK	49
MORTON	S. JOHNSTONE	50
RAITH	MEADOWBANK	51
ARBROATH	KILMARNOCK	52
COWDENBATH	EAST FIFE	53
DUMBARTON	E. STIRLING	54
MONTROSE	BERWICK	55

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED															NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED															
1	25	2	28	3	37	4	14	5	28	6	44	7	32	8	43	9	5	2	3	4	11	5	2	6	7	20	8	1		
9	42	10	52	11	46	12	13	14	45	15	46	16	49	17	42	18	25	—	2	1	13	3	14	4	15	6	10			
17	44	18	43	19	33	20	2	22	23	24	48	25	49	26	46	27	1	18	19	29	20	1	21	4	22	1	23	24	4	
25	45	26	53	27	52	28	60	29	52	30	67	31	49	32	51	33	25	26	27	28	2	29	30	5	31	—	32	2		
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	33	34	35	36	2	37	—	38	1					

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

ENGLISH DIV 1: Aston Villa 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0, Chelsea 1, Tottenham 2, Crystal Palace 3, Southampton 1, Derby 2, Queen's Park Rangers 0, Everton 2, Charlton 1, Manchester City 1, Wimbledon 1, Millwall 1, Manchester United 2, Norwich 0, Liverpool 0, Wimbledon 1, Millwall 1, Manchester United 2, Norwich 0, Liverpool 0.

DIV 4: Aldershot 0, Chesterfield 0, Burnley 1, Gillingham 2, Cambridge 3, Exeter 2, Carlisle 1, Halifax 1, Colchester 1, Rochdale 2, Doncaster 1, Scarborough 1, Hartlepool 5, Stockport 0, Middlesbrough 2, Grimsby 2, Scunthorpe 0, Peterborough 0, Wrexham 0, Hereford 0, York 0, Lincoln 0.

DIVISION FOUR

Carlisle	27	14	7	6	40	28	49
Exeter	25	15	2	8	46	30	47
Southend	28	14	5	9	40	30	47
York	28	12	9	7	33	28	45
Stockport	29	13	6	10	43	40	45
Chesterfield	26	12	7	7	36	27	43
Maldstone	27	13	4	10	42	36	43
Gillingham	26	12	6	8	33	27	42
Lincoln	27	11	8	8	26	27	41
Grimsby	28	10	10	8	39	32	40
Cambridge	26	11	6	9	43	40	39
Peterboro	28	14	6	34	30	38	
Burnley	25	10	7	8	26	24	37
Rochdale	27	11	4	12	28	27	37
Scunthorpe	27	9	9	9	39	36	36
Aldershot	27	9	9	9	34	37	36
Torquay	26	9	7	10	32	37	34
Doncaster	28	9	6	13	33	34	33
Scarboro	29	9	5	15	35	46	32
Halifax	28	7	9	12	36	38	30
Hereford	25	7	8	10	30	35	29
Hartlepool	28	7	5	16	39	62	26
Colchester	28	4	9	15	28	49	21
Wrexham	27	4	8	15	25	40	20

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV: Celtic 1, Hibernian 1, Dundee United 1, Aberdeen 1, Hearts 0, Dunfermline 2, Motherwell 1, Rangers 1, St Mirren 0, Dundee 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV

Rangers	26	16	6	4	37	14	38
Aberdeen	26	12	7	7	40	24	31
Hearts	26	12	6	8	45	31	30
Celtic	26	9	9	8	29	23	27
Motherwell	26	8	10	8	34	34	26
Dundee Utd	26	7	11	8	29	31	25
Dunfermline	26	9	6	11	28	36	24
Hibernian	26	7	8	11	23	32	22
St Mirren	26	8	6	12	22	40	22
Dundee	26	3	9	14	30	52	15

DIV 1: Airdrieonians 6, Ayr 0, Alloa 1, Clyde 0, Clydebank 3, Forfar 2, Falkirk 1, St Johnstone 0, Meadowbank 0, Clydebank 3, Forfar 2, Falkirk 1, St Johnstone 0, Meadowbank 1, Hamilton 1, Partick 0, Moreton 1, Raith 3, Albion 2.

DIVISION ONE

Airdrie	28	18	6	4	56	25	42
St Johnst	28	17	6	5	55	29	40
Falkirk	28	11	9	8	46	37	31
Hamilton	27	11	9	7	38	34	31
Clydebank	28	11	8	9	57	48	30
Partick	27	9	11	7	47	35	29
Mdwbank	28	9	9	10	31	33	27
Morton	28	6	15	7	27	32	27
Ayr	28	9	9	10	33	47	27
Raith	27	10	6	11	38	42	26
Clyde	27	6	9	12	24	35	21
Albion	28	5	9	14	32	54	19
Alloa	27	5	8	14	31	46	18
Forfar	27	4	10	13	31	49	16

Note: Forfar deducted two points for fielding ineligible player.

DIV 2: Berwick 1, Stenhousemuir 0, Brechin 1, Cowdenbeath 3, East Fife 3, Queen's Park 2, East Stirling 1, Arbroath 0, Queen of South 1, Dumbarton 1, Stranraer 2, Montrose 0.

DIVISION TWO

Brechin	27	15	5	7	42	30	35
Stirling	26	13	5	8	47	33	31
Stenhousemuir	27	13	5	9	40	34	31
Dumbarton	24	9	6	10	48	48	27
Arbroath	27	9	9	9	34	38	27
East Fife	26	8	10	8	42	41	26
Q O St	26	9	8	9	46	47	26
Kilmarnock	24	11	3	10	32	23	25
Berwick	27	10	4	13	44	42	24
Cowdenbath	27	7	10	10	35	36	24
Stranraer	26	9	6	11	38	44	24
Queens Pk	27	8	7	12	28	38	23
Montrose	26	7	8	11	36	41	22
E Stirling	24	7	5	12	22	39	19

RESULTS OF WEEK 237 SAT 10 FEBRUARY, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$548,103.27

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 6, 23, 27, 29, 31, 37. Supplementary Number: 10

Division 1: The Prize Pool is \$459,628.82 1 provisional winner of \$459,628.82	Division 3: The Prize Pool is \$15,144.30 71 winners of \$213.30ea
Division 2: The Prize Pool is \$5,048.60 1 provisional winner of \$5,048.60ea	Division 4: The Prize Pool is \$37,908.75 2,757 winners of \$13.75ea
	Division 5: The Prize Pool is \$30,372.80 3,704 winners of \$8.20ea

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ASTON VILLA	SHEFF. WED.	1	1-0
	EVERTON	CHARLTON	2	2-1
	MAN. CITY	WIMBLEDON	3	1-1
	MILLWALL	MAN. UTD.	4	1-2
	NORWICH	LIVERPOOL	5	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BOURNEMOUTH	MIDDLESBRO	6	2-2 *
	LEEDS	HULL	7	4-3
	LEICESTER	BRADFORD C.	8	1-1
	OXFORD UTD.	WEST BROM.	9	0-1
	PORTSMOUTH	NEWCASTLE	10	1-1 *
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	PORT VALE	WATFORD	11	1-0
	SHEFF. UTD.	PLYMOUTH	12	1-0
	WOLVES	IPSWICH	13	2-1
	BOLTON	ROTHERHAM	14	0-2
	BRENTFORD	HUDDERSFIELD	15	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BRISTOL C.	CARDIFF	16	1-0
	CREWE	BLACKPOOL	17	2-0
	MANSFIELD	BURY	18	1-0
	NOTTS C.	CHESTER	19	0-0
	PRESTON	BRISTOL R.	20	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	SHREWSBURY	NORTHAMPTON	21	2-0
	SWANSEA	FULHAM	22	4-2
	WALSALL	READING	23	1-1 *
	WIGAN A.	LEYTON O.	24	0-2
	ALDERSHOT	CHESTERFIELD	25	0-0
G.M. VALX. CONF. PREM.	BURNLEY	GILLINGHAM	26	1-2
	CARLISLE	HALIFAX	27	1-1 *
	COLCHESTER	ROCHDALE	28	1-2
	DONCASTER	SCARBORO	29	1-1 *
	HARTLEPOOL	STOCKPORT	30	5-0
G.M. VALX. CONF. PREM.	MAIDSTONE	GRIMSBY	31	2-2 *
	SCUNTHORPE	PETERBORO	32	0-0
	WREXHAM	HEREFORD	33	0-0
	YORK	LINCOLN	34	0-0
	BARROW	FARNBORO	35	3-1
G.M. VALX. CONF. PREM.	BOSTON U.	FISHER ATH.	36	2-0
	ENFIELD	MACCLESFIELD	37	1-1 *
	KETTERING	DARLINGTON	38	1-3

*Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

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Three award leaders

BY GREG BLAKE



DAVID LOWE

The leader board after Round 15 is:

- 6.64 — J. Filan (St George)
T. McCulloch (Marconi)
G. Arnold (Sydney Croatia)
- 6.62 — D. Lowe (Marconi)
- 6.6 — A. Davidson (Melbourne Croatia)
K. Hagan (Olympic)
- 6.57 — A. Bundalo (Apia)
G. Jolevski (Preston)
- 6.44 — Z. Adzic (Melbourne Croatia)
- 6.42 — M. Durakovic (Sth Melbourne Hellas)
D. Clarkson (George Cross)
- 6.4 — G. Phillips (Sydney Olympic)
- 6.38 — A. Tobin (Ad. City)
- 6.36 — A. McPherson (Melita)
- 6.33 — R. Slager (Ad. Hellas)
- 6.3 — J. Caleta (Melb. Croatia)
- 6.27 — C. Moffitt (St George)
- 6.23 — T. Pezzano (Apia)
G. Brown (Melita)
- 6.21 — M. Petersen (Sth Melb. Hellas)
D. Pupovac (Wollongong)
- 6.2 — J. Markovski (Melb. Croatia)

IT couldn't be tighter at the top in the ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre QNSL Player of the Year Award.

Three players — St George's John Filan, Tommy McCulloch of Marconi and Sydney Croatia's Graham Arnold — are tied for leadership of the award despite none of the trio playing a match during rain-affected Round 15 of the season.

Little separated the leaders from the rest of the field after votes were tallied and averaged at the end of Round 15.

Any one of 30 players are in striking distance as we approach the business end of the season.

ASW's Player of the Year Award is sponsored by the Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre and the 1990 winner receives a magnificent trophy and a \$250 cheque for his efforts.

A separate Goalkeeper of the Year award, also decided on the votes of ASW's experts, is sponsored by Reusch Australia, manufacturer of the



Alex Bundalo



world's finest goalkeeping equipment.



ALAN DAVIDSON

Youngsters emerge as National League stars

BY LOU GAUTIER

AT the halfway mark of Quit National Soccer League, and quite independent of the weekly player ratings in ASW, certain trends have emerged.

Young players have been to the fore in record numbers this season, forcing some of the older hands to take a back seat in their respective clubs.

You could say that the inaugural QNSL summer season has seen an unequalled emergence of young talent which augurs well for the future of Australian soccer.

The following is a highly subjective exercise, a personal viewpoint of the players who have had the biggest impact in the QNSL to date.

Here they are on a club to club basis:

APIA — ALEX BUNDALO, ROD BROWN, BRIAN ELLEM.

SOUTH MELBOURNE — PETER TSOLAKIS, MEHMET DURAKOVIC.

MARCONI — BOB CATLIN, TOM MCCULLOCH, IAN GRAY.

MELBOURNE CROATIA — ALAN DAVIDSON, GEORGE HANNAH, ZELJKO ADZIC.

ADELAIDE CITY — ROBERT ZABICA, ALEX TOBIN, CARL VEART.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC — KEVIN HAGAN, GARY PHILLIPS, DAVID BARRETT.

PRESTON — GEORGE JOLEVSKI, STEVE SMITH, PHIL TRAIANEDES.

SUNSHINE — DAVID CLARKSON, SEAN KEOGH.

SYDNEY CROATIA — GRAHAM ARNOLD, DAVID SEAL.



GEORGE JOLEVSKI

MELITA EAGLES — GREG BROWN, ALEX MCPHERSON.

ST GEORGE — JOHN FILAN, TONY KRSLOVIC.

WOLLONGONG CITY — DRAGAN PUPOVAC, DAVID SKEEN.

ADELAIDE HELLAS — RAYMOND BLAIR, BILLY WRIGHT.

BLACKTOWN CITY — STEVE MAUNTONE, KURT REYNOLDS.

While several of the players I have singled out above are well credentialled National League performers, several others are just finding their feet in the big time and have many more years ahead of them.

Players like Brian Ellem, John Filan, Steve Mauntone, George Jolevski, David Seal and Carl Veart have really taken off this season and a lot more will be heard from them well into the nineties.

Others like Greg Brown, Rod Brown, Robert Zabica, Peter Tsolakis, David Clarkson, Bob Catlin and Alex

Tobin have gained a new lease of life.

Still faithful to the post as kingpins of their respective sides are the likes of Alan Davidson, whose retirement from the Socceroo squad is a tragedy, David Skeen, Graham Arnold, who just keeps getting better and better, Sean Keogh and George Hannah, amongst others.

Injuries have taken their toll on several other young exciting players who have not been able to perform up to their immense talents.

Paul Trimboli, Warren Spink and John Markovski come to mind and there are those who have been sidelined for the entire season like St George goalkeeper Mike Gibson and now the effervescent Zlatko Nastevski, not to mention Ossie Latif, while Tony Franken, happily, is finally back on deck and performing splendidly with the resurgent Sydney Croatia.

What will the second half of the season bring, and how many of those mentioned above will carry their present outstanding form through to the business end of 1989/90?

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NSL CUP

TONIGHT, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SYDNEY CROATIA v ST GEORGE

Croatian Sports Centre — 7.30pm

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MELITA EAGLES

St George Stadium — 7.30pm

ADELAIDE CITY v ADELAIDE HELLAS

Hindmarsh Stadium — 8pm

SUNSHINE GC v SOUTH MELBOURNE

Olympic Park — 8pm



Bergers will be back

BY GREG BLAKE

IF the Heidelberg team can match the fighting words of club president Nick Ketsakis there is no doubt the former Victorian king-pins of the NSL will make a second snappy return to the country's elite league.

Relegation in 1987 and again in 1989 might have sunk club morale to an all-time low at the Olympic Village, but Ketsakis says the club is ready and able to rise once again.

And hopefully the next time Heidelberg makes its NSL return it will also be on track for a return to the club's glory days of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"We've had to cop it (relegation) twice in three years and we can either curl up and die or we can fight damned hard to get back," says Ketsakis.

"We've had so many problems but we are working through them."

"We will prove a few people wrong."

The pressure is on for the Bergers.

The former NSL big-gun has been installed as a 2 to 1 favourite to win the new Victorian Super League competition.

That is the type of pressure Heidelberg and its coach through the glory days of a decade ago, Len McKendry, can probably do without considering the strong field it will be up against.

Heidelberg must take on and beat the likes of last year's champions Morwell Falcons, fellow



JEFF OLVER — still loyal to Heidelberg as the club bids to regain QNSL status.

"Of course, it's hard for everyone at the club and the fans to get their enthusiasm back after what has happened."

"But even now the fans are getting interested again."

"They have seen that we have secured Len (McKendry) and some new players and they are keen to come and have a look."

"More and more supporters have come out to see us training since our pre-season started three months ago."

"If we win our first few games I am certain the fans will get right back behind us again."

Heidelberg should be in the NSL.

The club is good for the competition with its massive drawing power (fifth best in the NSL in 1989) and super facilities at Olympic Village.

Heidelberg is, as Ketsakis says, in every way an NSL club.

"But just because we have a proud National League history it doesn't mean that we should automatically be in there," he told ASW.

"It's not a matter of saying it's only a matter of time before we get back."

"We'll have to work for it and it will not be easy."

"I can see that the Super League will be very strong indeed and we'll have to put in more than we did to win the State League two years ago."

"But we can do it. We've worked very hard to put together a team capable of winning the competition and everything is going according to plan so far."

Heidelberg will gamble on using an established band of experienced senior NSL players to form the basis of its first team for 1990.

Jeff Olver, Garry McDowall, Alan Scott, John Kanesoulis, Stuart Stevenson and Angie Goutzioulis head up the punch with lesser lights such as Peter Bordinon ready to step up and claim a regular place.

Peter Tredennick, Claude Lucchesi, John Stewart, Ronnie Campbell and Steve Gojevic have been Heidelberg's major losses in the off-season.

The club has picked up more than handy replacements in Paul Lewis, Stuart Cannell, Willie Herd and John Yzendoorn, as well as promising young recruit Jim Tsakiris from Clarinda.

"And there are probably more to come," promised Ketsakis.

"The important thing at this stage is that the attitude of the players seems to be just right."

"You can tell that there is a desperation to get back into the top league once again."

Super League Battle

BY GREG BLAKE

VICTORIA's Super League, which is set to kick-off on February 24, still faces a battle to get off the ground.

As we reported last week a dissenting group of five clubs, Box Hill, Albion, Ringwood City, Fawkner and Mooroolbark, all of which missed the Super League cut, are launching a legal challenge against the competition.

The Victorian Soccer Federation has not wilted under the pressure of the challenge but, according to an official of one of the dissenting clubs, the fight is not over.

The official, who refused to make his name or his club's name available for print because of the legal action pending, spoke about the reasons for the legal challenge to me recently.

"We are looking to take Supreme Court action — that is our next step," he told me.

"The clubs involved in the action have undertaken to take this right through and are prepared to finance a court action."

"We feel that strongly about it."

"What the Federation is doing is completely wrong. By allowing the Federation to break its own rules a nasty precedent is being created and the clubs which have missed out are suffering as well."

"We lose out on sponsorship and support and, having lost our State League status, it becomes increasingly difficult to retain players and build a strong team."

"It is wrong that we are put in this position at such short notice."

The official who spoke out said there was little concern among the five clubs about the threat of possible suspension from VSF competition.

"For a start the law of the land is such that if anyone feels they need to take legal action they are entitled to do so," he explained. "As far as we are concerned it has come to this because we

cannot get satisfaction from the VSF."

"According to FIFA rules, litigation between the clubs and the federation should be settled without court action but if either party is not satisfied an inde-

pendant arbitrator should be appointed."

"We have sought the appointment of an arbitrator but the Federation has chosen to do nothing about it. That is why the situation has come to this."

NSL CUP

Melbourne Croatia beats Preston 1-0

BY GREG BLAKE

PRESTON never really had a chance in last Wednesday night's first round NSL Cup tie with Melbourne Croatia at Olympic Park.

At least that was the general consensus with the press brigade with less than 40 minutes of the match played.

Notwithstanding the absence of long-term injured pair Spink and Roodhouse, Preston carried almost a glorified youth team into the game with names such as Smith, Jolevski, Crino, Tacevski and Zinni all missing.

In contrast Croatia was at all but full strength with the only first teamer missing being goalkeeper Joe Rados, who was replaced by a more than adequate David Miller.

When Preston defender Bill Piculovski left the ground injured 35 minutes into the game it should have spelt a gloomy end to any chance the club might have had.

In the end Croatia did limp through to the next round by virtue of a goal just six minutes from full time from veteran defender George Hannah.

Hannah grabbed the only goal of the game when he rumbled up-field and collected a cross field ball from

Branko Milosevic before rounding Phil Traianedes and angling the ball home. Croatia could hardly have been pleased by the win.



Theo Selemides

It was thwarted on more than one occasion by the brilliant Traianedes, who made particularly fine stops from Ivan Kelic and Josip Biskic, but the reality is that it should have minced its undermanned opponent.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Davidson, Talajic, Donnelly (Selemides HT), Hannah, Markovski, Milosevic, Biskic, Kelic, Adzic, Awaritefe (Horvat 45).

PRESTON: Traianedes, Runje, Spasevski (Bekiaris 60), Jackson, Piculovski (Ristevski 35), Temcev, Sifkas, J. Markovac, R. Markovac, Woodall, Momirovski. REFEREE: J. Fraser. CROWD: 1846.

Victorian Secondary Schoolboy Shield

BY GREG BLAKE

THE prestigious Victorian Secondary Schoolboy Shield competition is on again in 1990 and the organisers are looking to make it the biggest and best series yet.

In charge of co-ordinating the 1990 championships is Sal Lema, a teacher at Christian Brothers College in East St Kilda, and Lema believes new sponsorship from the Victorian Soccer Federation will make the 1990 Shield the best ever.

"We are thrilled that the VSF has come to the party to offer prizemoney for the 1990 competition," Lema said.

"This should ensure plenty of interest from Victorian schools."

The Victorian Secondary Schoolboys Shield, formerly the Hellas Schoolboy Cup, was introduced in the late 1970s by current QNSL chairman Sam Papavas and is open to any school teams.

There are two sections, an under 16 competition and an open age title up for grabs.

The Shield is played for on a knock-out basis with this year's series beginning in March and ending with a final to be

played on a date yet to be decided.

"The VSF has said it is hopeful of playing the final as a curtain raiser for an international or state game sometime in May," Lema told ASW.

Lema, who took over the organisation of the competition from former South Melbourne Hellas star Jim Armstrong this year, says the added incentive of prizemoney should encourage a healthy increase in participation in 1990.

Last year's competition all-time high of 80 teams should be, according to Lema, increasing to over 100 teams in 1990.

Students or teachers interested in becoming involved in the Victorian Secondary Schoolboys Shield competition can contact Lema by ringing (03) 529-6611 during business hours and (03) 807-6425 after hours.

It costs nothing to enter a team.

relegated NSL outfit Melbourne JUST and former NSL title winner Brunswick Juventus if it is to move back into top company again.

It's a class field and Ketsakis is only too aware of that.

"It's a make-or-break year," he told ASW.

"I think we can do it but it will have to be an all-or-nothing effort from everyone involved at the club."

"If we miss out this year that might well be the end of it."

"The Super League competition will get even stronger next year and in each of the years ahead."

Heidelberg's roller-coaster ride of fortunes started with a surprise relegation season in 1987 followed by a one year burst of State League success.

But the joy of returning to the NSL was quickly forgotten in 1989 when the club reached what was possibly the lowest point in its NSL history.

As the club sat ingloriously at the foot of the NSL table and supporters were dropping away in their hundreds it was revealed that the Bergers were more than half a million dollars in debt.

"Financially and in every other way we suffered last year," admits Ketsakis.

"But slowly we've turned things around and even now supporters are starting to get behind us again."

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EDITOR

OF all the State Federations, the one with the outstanding fully owned property is New South Wales.

Situated in the north western Sydney suburb of Parklea, this property is a joy to behold. For those who have not seen its facilities, a pen picture is in order.

Now known as Valentine Park in honour of its originator and developer, former NSW Soccer Federation treasurer Charles Valentine, it has over 70 acres of prime, rolling land, complete with various football fields, and dams to keep water available at little cost.

The huge indoor arena contains indoor football and basketball courts, extensive offices, huge commercial standard kitchen and dining room, staff flat and store rooms.

The nearby motel block was every bit good enough to host the Moscow Torpedo squad in style, and there is an excellent swimming pool as well.

On the books at \$2.6million, it is easy to understand that it would bring five times this figure given a residential zoning.

But not one acre of Valentine Park should be ever be put to the hammer.

It has been said of land that "they are not making anymore of it," and soccer will remain ahead of all other competitor sports if it sticks to its main asset.

Valentine Park was improved with much aid from the NSW and Federal Governments and very often Charles Valentine, with his extensive contacts with NSL ministers and leading public servants, was able to secure grants of \$140,000 per year to continue the improvements.

With the advent of the Liberal Government, premier Greiner has indicated to soccer interests that a major soccer stadium will be later constructed in the centrally situated Homebush complex.

But every effort must be made to retain the government's financial interest in Parklea.

NSW Soccer Federation president John Constantine has a board of directors with considerable experience working along with him.

The Sports, Recreation and Racing Minister, Bob Rowland Smith, a National Party nominee, has to our knowledge little soccer contact, but like former Labour Sports Minister Michael Cleary, is there to be convinced of soccer's standing and future.

It is up to the NSW Federation over which way they wish to proceed.

Plans are held for a main stadium, and perhaps a limited start on an enclosed ground would be an advantage.

The Federation itself, with Peter Gray as state treasurer, could well look at decreasing the overdraft or adding to the funds available for improvements to Valentine Park and to tightening the expenditures.

With the financial constraints of the member clubs, and some expected absorption of a loss from the Moscow Torpedo tour, the Federation's staffing could be examined to look for savings.

It is understood that Coaching Director David Lee has been economical in handling his responsibilities.

In addition, with the NSW Amateurs doing more in the schools area, there is room to utilise the services of Referees and Schools Officer Gary Power in a much more senior role for part of his time.

NEW ASF, NSL ADDRESSES

Since January 29, 1990 the Australian Soccer Federation and National Soccer League are at their new shared premises located at:

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WEEKLY — FEBRUARY 14, 1990

Band-aid solutions not good enough

BY KEITH GILMOUR



Notice the practically empty Sydney Football Stadium when Australia lost 2-0 to Torpedo last month. There was a time 40,000-plus crowds at international matches were a common occurrence in Sydney

THE present management review of the Australian Soccer Federation must include a close look into the structure of NSL clubs.

Picture in your mind the clubs that are answerable to many, many hundreds of members at an annual general meeting.

Democracy is one thing, but those clubs which are at the beck and call of every last member of their communities ask for trouble.

So club structures must be reorganised, along with capital bases.

It is well and good to say that earlier attempts to turn soccer into an Australian sport failed.

Now, years down the track, it is quite clear that the game has no future unless some well conceived, steadily implemented measures are put in place.

No hysterics, just good old preservation of existing crowds and building with newcomers.

Quoted previously have been the Saulwick figures, based on a survey commissioned by the Sydney Morning Herald and Melbourne Age.

Some 35% of Sydney-siders interviewed said they were interested in soccer, against 9% of Melbournites.

Although a fair proportion of the 35% certainly do not attend other than international matches, the work done in NSW Amateur ranks requires consideration in Victoria and elsewhere.

Voluntarily worked local suburban clubs remain the base for community interest, as Australia is a haven for enjoyment of sport.

The job is how to convert a proportion of the amateur players into club followers.

Is the NSL — or the

State Leagues — targeting women, juniors, and outsiders in well structured campaigns?

Back in 1951, for the English FA tour, Melbourne promoter Jack Skolnik targeted many of the business and society leaders of Sydney.

They booked seats in droves, adding to the financing of the tour.

The Sydney Cricket Ground test drew over 46,000 spectators.

Like so many good ideas in soccer, this one was promptly forgotten.

Summer soccer is now a fact, and will stand or fall on its results.

The game lacks a proper Australia Cup, which could be run off in state sections.

The Rugby League has appointed a committee of three top line businessmen to see that their clubs conduct player payments under a salary ceiling.

Watch how the ASF and NSL leaders handle the Bradley report on these sorts of topics when it comes to hand in a few months' time.

Heaven help Australian soccer if these issues are dodged.

It beggars description as to why the ASF has not seen an England-Australia series established.

There are many other topics that can be brought to notice for the good of the game.

It can be hoped that the logic of having one strong NSW state is finally addressed after over 30 years of neglect.

The barriers have come down at junior level and NSW should become the jewel in the ASF crown.

Many is the time that John Warren has brought to notice the potential of indoor soccer (futsal) to add a new dimension to playing skills.

It is up to bodies such as the Australian Futsal Association and the NSW Amateur Soccer

Federation to set up an outdoor version of the indoor game, played on small grass or concrete or gravel courts.

Soccer has let rugby league get away with its touch football game, and it is long past time for soccer to reply with outdoor futsal.

It should be a summer game as it would represent sheer stupidity to clash head on with the big junior associations of NSW, Queensland and the ACT.

If the futsal people don't pick it up for financial reasons the John Hedison, Cec Buccello and Co of the NSW Amateurs have a wide open chance to lead the way.

Hopefully, the fans are now to see the Australian Soccer Federation begin negotiating face to face with the national associations of overseas countries.

Only 7,000 spectators in Sydney and barely 3,000 in Victoria watched the Australia v Torpedo Moscow games.

This type of event drew three to four times as many spectators 25 years ago.

Without covering many further topics which are also vital to the progress of the game, it is a fact that the days of band aid solutions must end.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

PART 2

Olympic 'Torpedoed' 5-1 by Russians

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

INJURY-HIT Sydney Olympic were thrashed 5-1 last Monday week at St George Stadium by Moscow Torpedo in the Russians' last match in Australia.

In a game that should never have been played as Olympic had little to gain and much to lose, coach Mick Hickman was forced to make no less than a massive eight substitutions in a frantic effort to conserve energy and shelter some of his injured players.

Only John Koch, Gary Phillips and Abbas Saad lasted the entire 90 minutes.

Olympic were given a false hope of pulling off an upset result when powerful right-back Davie Barrett latched onto a re-

from six metres out.

In the last 25 minutes of the match, the Russians opened the flood gates as Olympic made another seven substitutions which understandably disrupted and unbalanced the team.

"It was a great education for our younger squad members," Hickman said after the match.

"This is something they should remember the rest of their lives."

"I hope that all of us would have learned something from this game."



ABBAS SAAD

bound to belt home the opening goal of the match in the 23rd minute.

But the Russians balanced the books five minutes before half-time when Pudakov played a quick one-two with Grechnev to nail the target

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling (Meier 46m), Barrett (Triantafyllou 46m), Plataniotis (Scott 64m), Hooker (Dakos 46m), Koch, Hristodoulou (Sharpley 62m), Phillips, Bernal (Pontidas 46m), Ollerenshaw (Refenes 46m), Perinovic (Bennett 39m), Saad.

Yellow cards: Perinovic 34m, Bernal 39m, for Sydney Olympic; Kalaychev 59m for Moscow Torpedo.

Referee: G. Power.

Crowd: 1,827.

LIVERPOOL OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

NSW-FEDERATION TEAM

Training sessions have started, every Wednesday and Friday at Phillips Park, Lurnea from 7pm.

Also, every Wednesday, training session for the girls team of the club which plays in 1st Division State League.

For more information for Liverpool Olympic's Federation team, ring Steve Agiasotis

☎ (02) 602 3557 AH

☎ (02) 602 3590

for the girls team, ring Michael Kavouras on

☎ (02) 631 8107



JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY

Sub sanity, please



Socceroo Graham Arnold came close to scoring in this incident against Torpedo Moscow in Sydney. Too many substitutions marred the two-match series.

A plea for some sanity for future international fixtures.

Lets stick with TWO subs per game.

FIFA's international laws can be changed during friendly matches such as the Socceroos v Moscow Torpedo or Sydney Olympic v Moscow Torpedo.

It's up to the two coaches... if they agree on a higher number of subs and the organising body also agrees, the number may be increased from the customary two.

While fully appreciating that Frank Arok and Valentin Ivanov saw the match as an opportunity to give as many players as possible a run and Sydney Olympic's Mike Hickman, with an NSL Cup

match set down for two days later (which was subsequently washed out), wanted to "protect" his key players, the unlimited sub approach to international matches has gone beyond the bounds of acceptability.

In the Socceroo Torpedo match there were nine second half subs!!!

Until the subs started coming in monotonous regularity we had witnessed a fine, competitive match, certainly a splendid one for the new-look Socceroos.

But once the subs on both sides came into the game, the match died.

Not as much as the one I saw a few days later at St George Stadium where Sydney Olympic, drawing 1-1

at half time, made EIGHT second half substitutes.

The match became a non-event as Torpedo piled on the goals and I am sure Olympic fans who paid \$10 to watch an international game felt cheated by it all.

In a lesser manner,

the same applied to the Melbourne match.

Again, I realise coaches want to give as many as possible a run, however, the name of the game is the spectator and the unlimited sub "agreement" has to be controlled in the future.

Big sponsorship for St George

ST GEORGE will announce its largest ever sponsorship deal later this week.

The three-year sponsorship arrangement will give the Saints financial stability in the short term and provide the staffing basis for Saints to make some very significant long-term plans.

Much of the sponsorship is centered around vast improvements to St George Stadium.

Apart from the major sponsorship deal, Saints have also secured considerable "minor" sponsorship deals, which again will provide for funding of Saints' many programmes, including its unique apprenticeship scheme.

The developments at St George will, in effect, mean the club, arguably the most famous in Australian soccer, will be a force in the Australian game for many years to come.

The national capital's challenge for a Quit NSL spot next season will also receive a considerable nudge when one of the leading financial institutions in Canberra will announce a three-year sponsorship deal at the Canberra Croatia Soccer Club, Deakin, next Friday evening.

The backing of one of Canberra's most prestigious firms will ensure Canberra Croatia, runners-up last year, will be in with a big chance of winning the NSW State League this year.

LIVE! LES MURRAY & JOHNNY WARREN

for scores 0055 21166 and live

commentary 0055 21150



South Korea and the United Arab Emirates — two of the World Cup finalists Australian soccer lovers will see live on SBS.

SBS World Cup kick-off times

FOR Australian football fans' World Cup diaries here is the full list of SBS TV's extensive coverage of Italia '90.

TX time is the time SBS goes to air in Australia, with the match kick-off time, the actual time the mach kicks off in Italy quoted in Australian time...

	T.X. time	Kick-off	
June 9	(RAI to still confirm this time)	02:00	Opening ceremony
			Argentina v. Cameroun
June 10	12:30	01:00	USSR v. Romania
	02:55	01:00	United Arab Emirates v. Colombia
	04:45	05:00	Italy v. Austria
June 11	12:30	01:00	USA v. Czechoslovakia
	04:45	05:00	Brazil v. Sweden
	07:00	05:00	West Germany v. Yugoslavia
June 12	12:30	01:00	Costa Rica v. Scotland
	04:45	05:00	England v. Rep of Ireland
June 13	12:30	01:00	Belgium v. South Korea
	04:45	05:00	Holland v. Egypt
June 14	12:30	01:00	Uruguay v. Spain
	04:45	05:00	Argentina v. USSR
June 15	12:30	01:00	Yugoslavia v. Colombia
	02:55	01:00	Cameroun v. Romania
	04:45	05:00	Italy v. USA
June 16	12:30	01:00	Austria v. Czechoslovakia
	04:45	05:00	West Germany v. United Arab Emirates
June 17	12:30	01:00	Brazil v. Costa Rica
	04:45	05:00	England v. Holland
	07:00	05:00	Sweden v. Scotland
June 18	12:30	01:00	Rep of Ireland v. Egypt
	04:45	05:00	Belgium v. Uruguay
	07:00	05:00	South Korea v. Spain
June 19	04:45	05:00	Argentina v. Romania
	07:00	05:00	Cameroun v. USSR
June 20	12:30	01:00	West Germany v. Colombia
	02:55	01:00	Yugoslavia v. United Arab Emirates
	04:45	05:00	Italy v. Czechoslovakia
	07:00	05:00	Austria v. USA
June 21	04:45	05:00	Brazil v. Scotland
	07:00	05:00	Sweden v. Costa Rica
June 22	12:30	01:00	Belgium v. Spain
	02:55	01:00	South Korea v. Uruguay
	04:45	05:00	England v. Egypt
	07:00	05:00	Rep of Ireland v. Holland
Friday 22 June (Italian time) is a rest day — no matches.			
June 24 (AEST)	12:30	01:00	Eighth final
	04:45	05:00	Eighth final
June 25	12:30	01:00	Eighth final
	04:45	05:00	Eighth final
June 26	12:30	01:00	Eighth final
	04:45	05:00	Eighth final
June 27	12:30	01:00	Eighth final
	04:45	05:00	Eighth final
Wednesday 27, Thursday 28, Friday 29 June (Italian time) are rest days.			
July 1 (AEST)	12:30	01:00	Quarter final
	04:45	05:00	Quarter final
July 2	12:30	01:00	Quarter final
	04:45	05:00	Quarter final
Monday 2 July (Italian time) is a rest day.			
July 4 (AEST)	03:30	04:00	Semi-final
July 5	03:30	04:00	Semi-final
Thursday 5, Friday 6 July (Italian time) are rest days.			
July 8	03:30	04:00	Third place play-off
July 9	03:30	04:00	Final

N.B.: Match kick-off is at either 5pm or 9pm in Italy (for first rounds) — as Australia is 8 hours ahead, a match that kicks off at 5pm on 9 June will go to air live at 01:00 on 10 June in Australia.

OPINION LINE

A surprisingly high number of respondents, some 74%, believe the ASF is correct in advertising for the position of national coach.

Over the next three weeks fans are asked to vote for whom they think should lead the Socceroos in Australia's next World Cup campaign.

Many believe Frank Arok should retain the position, many favour other local coaches such as Bert Mariani, Ferenc Puskas, Manfred Schaefer, Eddie Thomson, Les Scheinflug, Raul Blanco, Rale Rasic or Zoran Matic, while many believe we should seek an overseas coach.

For the cost of a local call fans can register their vote over the next three weeks by calling 0055 20526.

Just read out the name of the coach you want to lead Australia.

Arok best man for Aussie post

BY MIKE JOHNSON



IN story book fashion, Frank Arok had an outstanding win against Moscow Torpedo for what was supposed to be his last game in charge of the Australian national team.

But life does not generally run like a story book and in another twist of fickle fate, we may yet see Frank again in charge of the Socceroos.

Judging by the diplomacy of his remarks after another celebrated win against Torpedo, he obviously sees himself in with a chance to coach Australia again.

So do I. That is unless some remarkable coaching candidate springs up out of the postman's bag that delivers the replies to the ASF's world-wide plea for a coach.

Any newcomer who coaches Australia has already lost a year of preparation time for the next World Cup.

He will also need at

least a year to familiarise himself with Australia and its top soccer players.

Which means he will have conceded two years out of four to Arok.

No coach in this world is able to do that.

One has to express disappointment over Australia's last World Cup campaign.

Fiji, New Zealand, Israel, all in their own way, were large-scale disasters which no losing national coach would normally expect to survive.

However, the ASF presumably in order to get maximum value for its money, kept on Arok rather than pay his contract out.

One presumes they intended to appoint a new national coach from within Australia in July, or perhaps there was one who was already selected from overseas who subsequently has let them down.

Whatever, the time pattern is totally unsuitable to appoint an overseas coach to take us into the 1994 World Cup campaign.

And, despite Arok's last World Cup failure, there is no one in the country who appears better qualified than himself at this time to mount another World



FRANK AROK (left) with AIS coach Ron Smith (centre) and Gary Cole. Our Mike Johnson thinks he is still the best man for the Socceroo coaching job.

Cup campaign.

Of course, the ASF has come up with eccentric national coaching decisions in the past, and the recent World Cup non-preparation indicates that the present administration has not grown in wisdom.

Whoever it is at the coaching helm, he has a useful looking Australian team to build upon.

On the other hand, Moscow Torpedo is not necessarily the very best indication of our class.

A scratch Australian team in Sydney, decimated by injuries, outplayed them for much of

the time, but could not score.

The difference in Melbourne was that shots, and especially headers, hit the target.

I think we are now beyond the growing phase where our national team plays touring club sides for match practise.

There is a big motivational difference between a totally committed Australian national team player playing in his own country against a touring club player playing out of season with his club.

We need competitive

games against other national teams, or against competitive overseas club sides in some form of organised competition.

It is no wonder that spectators do not turn up to national team games where teams can use up to five substitutes, as was the case in Melbourne against Torpedo.

That is gross disrespect for the spectator who pays good money to watch these games.

It is these spectators on whom the professional game depends for its survival.

It also does not give our players the competition necessary to prepare them for the highly competitive World Cup qualifying games coming up.

Nor are these games a good barometer for a coach on which to judge the merits of individual players.

Indeed as I write this I begin to experience some of the anger expressed recently by so many Australian soccer people at the abject failure of the ASF to give

our national team the preparation any team needs if it is to participate successfully in a competition so demanding as the World Cup of soccer.

It is gross neglect, unmitigated amateurism, petty mindedness and absolute ignorance to leave our national team rusting away in dry dock all these months.

I had hoped such foolishness, such incompetence, such unprofessionalism was a thing of our past.

CAPTAIN SOCCEROO

THE popular SBS Television programme CAPTAIN SOCCEROO makes it return on Tuesday, February 20 at 4.30pm.

Hosted by Johnny Warren, the programme is a must for all soccer fans, young and old, though primarily aimed at a young audience.

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A GREAT PLACE TO MEET THE COACH OF THE YEAR:



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Give Les Scheinflug a fair go!

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

DESPITE the many real problems facing soccer in this country, one area offering great encouragement for the future has to be the progress made in the development of our youth which must go close to being the biggest success story of Australian sport during the eighties.

Whether one looks at the amazing turnaround made in club football which has seen the virtual eradication of imports which dominated the game in the seventies or in our national team where there's hardly a player who wasn't either born or bred locally, the transformation is just about complete.

Rather than continuing to rely on second and third-rate imports, mostly from Britain, to improve our standards, we are now exporting much of our local talent to Europe instead.

Names like Krncevic, Farina, Mitchell, Dorigo, Patikas, Hristodoulou, Anastadiadis and Polak immediately come to mind.

With the lone exception of Dorigo, these true blue Aussies all share one common thing — they have graduated from the production line of our various national youth teams since they were introduced by the much maligned Rudi Gutendorf in 1979.



LES SCHEINFLUG (right) at a press conference with 1983 Young Socceroos David Lowe, Ralph Maier and Tommy McCulloch.

dorf in 1979.

Together with dozens of other Socceroos and high-profile NSL stars, they got their first taste of international football and eventually reached maturity under the careful guidance of Australia's most successful youth coach, Les Scheinflug.

Apart from the Youth Championship of 1985 in the USSR, when the job was temporarily given to the then AIS coach Jimmy Shoulder, Scheinflug has masterminded the young Socceroos' immense progress ever since 1981.

He was responsible for taking them to the

quarter-final stage of that tournament, then to the 1983 finals in Mexico and again to Chile in 1987.

In a decade of unprecedented glory for our youngsters, Scheinflug's only failure was in Syria last year when, with all the odds stacked against his team, they only missed out on making the finals by a solitary goal against a host nation which was later accused by FIFA for fielding a number of over-age players.

Discarded

Yet despite all his undoubted success, the man who has been so

instrumental in leading the Young Socceroos onto the world stage and who has influenced the development of nearly all the overseas based stars, has been completely discarded by the powers that be without so much as a thank you or even the decency of officially notifying him that his services were no longer required.

The fact that Scheinflug has devoted a big chunk of his life to the Socceroo cause ever since captaining our first World Cup team in 1965 counts for absolutely nothing in the dog-eat-dog world of Australian

soccer politics.

If he had been a failure fair enough, but Scheinflug's impressive record with our youth teams speaks for itself. He has well and truly put more than enough runs on the board.

National coach Frank Arok has now been given responsibility for preparing the new young Socceroo squad for next September's World Youth Championship qualifiers with the assistance of Queensland's Bruce Stowell.

The huge question mark surrounding Arok's future once his contract expires in July,

however, leads one to be cynical enough to suggest that the groundwork is carefully being prepared for Stowell's eventual takeover of Australia's youth team.

Why he should even be considered ahead of the tried and proven Scheinflug, or for that matter, numerous other coaches in this vital area of our soccer's future, is difficult to comprehend, but then nothing that happens in Australian soccer should be too surprising.

Logical

To say that the whole matter has not been handled with the best interests of our youngsters at heart would be a gross understatement.

By far the most logical solution would have been to simply keep the status quo, with the Scheinflug/Blanco team continuing to be in charge of the youth team until a national coach, whoever it may be, is finally appointed.

When that happens, the new supremo should then be given the task of selecting his coaching staff for our various national teams.

Logic rarely ever plays a part in the game's decision-making process, however, and on this occasion it could have disastrous consequences for the immediate future of a highly talented bunch of youngsters.

As for Scheinflug, his close involvement with Australian soccer has no



doubt left him with his fair share of critics.

But I would be surprised if any of them has contributed a fraction of what he has for the Socceroo cause during the last 30 years.

EDWARDS RETURNS

ALISTAIR Edwards is likely to return to Australia before the end of the summer season.

The young striker has failed to break into English football after trials at Second Division Brighton and Watford.



Edwards, now on vacation in Ireland, has asked Olympic to take him back, but it will depend on the terms he is asking.

Edwards is the classical case of a talented young Aussie being tempted to try his luck overseas before he is ready for the big time.

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

FRANK Arok spent last week at the Australian Institute of Sport putting Australia's national under 17 squad through its paces.

The lads are getting ready for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Papua New Guinea in September.

A berth in the finals in Ecuador in 1991 is their goal.

A BRAND-NEW car park is under construction at St George Stadium with entrance and exits from both Bestic and West Botany Streets.

Also in the works is a first-rate outer training pitch — and chances are that all of St George's administrative work will soon be conducted from the stadium, in spacious offices under the grandstand.

SA will be missing some of its top referees this season.

QNSL man Tom McRoe is in the US on a month's business while Bill Tattersall is due to leave in April for a world trip.

Big John Miller and Frank Crupi will be off in June as spectators for the World Cup. They also will head to Scotland and the US.

Talking of refs, World Cup man Richard Lorenc gave an impeccable display in the Hellas-Preston clash at Hindmarsh.

SOUTH Melbourne's reputation as one of the most professional QNSL teams was in question during the club's recent home game against Sunshine George Cross.

Inclement weather conditions allowed some relaxation of the strict press only rules for the press area and this meant an assortment of hangers-on were inside to crowd the working press.

ASW doesn't wish to be seen as sexist, but the worst of the bunch were a couple of screaming women, both supposedly involved with the club, who insisted on not only barracking for Hellas but in (loudly) bagging George Cross players in no uncertain terms.

Not good enough.

PRESTON is reported to be on the look-out for a new home ground following further tenancy problems at Connor Reserve.

SA's former champion referee Donald Campbell was delighted at receiving the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day honours list.

Campbell, 50, retired as a ref at the end of last season.

He received the award for his services to the game after an illustrious 25-year career in which he represented both SA and Australia with distinction worldwide.

"It is a great honour and I'm thrilled for my family and soccer in general," said Campbell.

"I would like to share the medal with all soccer supporters in SA." Campbell now coaches Croatia.

FIFA coach Heinz Marotzke spent a week in Australia before heading off to Fiji yesterday.

While in Australia, he met the directors of

coaching of most of the states.

Marotzke was in New Zealand for a month and will be spreading the gospel in the South Pacific for another five weeks before returning to Switzerland.

FORMER Adelaide Hellas keeper David Miller is going to press Melbourne Croatia's Joe Rados for a first team place.

Youngster Rados has done everything expected of him as a starter in the Croatia first team this season but Miller, bought from Adelaide Hellas five weeks ago, is certainly no slouch.

Miller made his Croatia debut in last week's cup tie against Preston and put in a faultless display.



DAVID MILLER

VICTORIAN 'Super League' club Bulleen has signed up two Melbourne Croatia stars for the 1990 season and is hoping to snare a third.

Frank Valentice was transferred to Bulleen last week for \$3000, midfielder Anthony Grbac has gone on loan to Bulleen for \$5000 for the year and the Super League club is chasing out-of-favour defender Con Opasinis.

Opasinis has been transfer-listed at \$15,000 and the former Preston skipper is attracting plenty of interest.

THE ASF is hopeful the Welsh national team will play at least one game in Australia, one June 3.

Wales are scheduled to meet Egypt in Cairo on May 27.

There's no reason why the Welsh should only play one game.

A three-match series against the Socceroos would be ideal despite

ASF general secretary Alan Vessey's cryptic comment that "it would be pointless to accept more than one game because the World Cup starts five days later . . ."

What have Wales and Australia got to do with the World Cup finals which kick off on June 8, pray tell?

ADELAIDE City's Vidmar brothers, Tony and Aurelio, are close but that has not been a boon for the club.

Socceroo Aurelio recently was sidelined with chickenpox.

Now younger brother Tony has the disease. Luckily, he has not missed any playing action, City's game against Melita being called off because of the rain.

to join the Australian Sports Commission.

ZLATKO Arambasic has decided to reject overseas offers.

He will remain in Australia to compete in the Olympic qualifiers, set down for next year.

The talented Blacktown City striker, who is studying physical education at college, is bound to be one of the first players selected in the Olympic side.

Interested in his future overseas are Dinamo Zagreb and Mechelen.

FIFA's Olympic qualifying draw will be released in June.

THE 1979 Young Socceroo captain Ian Rowden, who was in charge of marketing with Coca-Cola, is now the head marketing man with Powers Beer in Brisbane.

Powers, of course, are the sponsors of the Brisbane Broncos rugby league team.

Another good man lost to soccer . . .

ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic sees problems with the dry grounds in summer soccer.

He believes they are largely responsible for the spate of ligament injuries.

Marconi superstar Zlatko Nastic is out for the rest of the season and City's Charley Villani has been sidelined with knee complaints.

"Players really have to prepare specially for the hard ground conditions they face this year," said Matic. "If they are not prepared 100 per cent there is a big danger to knee ligaments. Villani probably came back too soon."

THE grapevine has it that the current coach of the Czechoslovakian national team, Joe Venglos, may be one of the applicants for the Socceroo coaching post.

Venglos' contract with the Czechoslovak FA expires after the World Cup finals and it is reported he may be interested in returning to Australia.

Venglos coached the now-defunct Sydney Prague for three years and was in charge of the Australian national team for its three games against Scotland in 1967.

The 53-year-old Venglos would be the best man for the job should the ASF decide against reappointing Frank Arok, in our book still the most qualified to guide the Socceroos into the 1994 World Cup finals.



CARL VEART — one of the revelations of the season, the young Adelaide City striker-cum midfielder is a certainty for Australia's Olympic team.

Kenny keeps the fire burning

BY GREG BLAKE

THE fire in the belly of one former Socceroo and QNSL star is still burning despite what many would perceive to be a downward curve in his career.

The tigerish form of midfielder Kenny Murphy won many a game for South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne JUST in his NSL days.

Murphy, who is still yet to be officially released by a JUST club relegated from the NSL in 1989, has seen it all as a championship winner with Hellas and as a determined World Cup campaigner for the Socceroos.

To most others the thought of coaching middle-ranking Thomastown in the Victorian State Super League in 1990 would be just a way of staying in the game a little longer.

But the new Thomastown playing-coach is having none of that.

"They might think I'm here for an easy time but they do not know just how ambitious I am," says Murphy of his new role as coach.

"I aim to get into coaching in a big way and the only way to do that is to succeed."

"I'm taking it very seriously indeed."

Murphy's desire to



KEN MURPHY

push Thomastown out of the also-ran class is apparent.

As he says, the players are not doing it easy.

Murphy has had them on the track three nights per week and again at weekends during the pre-season in a bid to weed out which players have and have not got 'the right attitude'.

"I am leaving the players in no doubt as to how ambitious I am," he explained.

"If the players aren't prepared to do it then I'll have to go out and get players that will," was his warning.

The transition from player only to player-coach hasn't been too difficult says the veteran.

"The training seems a bit different though."

"It's harder this year because I have to do it properly."

"And I think you get more tired running around and having to yell at people at the same time," he said with a typical Murphy grin.

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Our "lost" generation

CORRESPONDENT JOHN WOODS LOOKS AT SOME OF THE AREAS WHERE THE GAME IS MISSING THE BOAT



Australia v Israel World Cup qualifying action at the Sydney Football Stadium. The result still haunts soccer fans — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

MANY commentators have theories about why 'our' football is not the pre-eminent code in Australia today and if you care to bear with me, a player and supporter for nearly 30 years, I will give you mine.

To me, Australian soccer 'lost' a generation of supporters in the late 1960s and early 1970s, ie. the young predominantly Anglo-Saxon kids who were interested either in trying to make a name for themselves or simply enjoyed playing the game.

The code is now struggling to fill the gap in attendances which these kids, now grown up and having young kids themselves, would have provided.

Why did soccer lose these kids?

Simple. Weak and short-sighted administration.

We continually relied on too many imports to fill first-team positions at the expense of local juniors and we then allowed these imports in later years to tell us how to play.

Rather than blend local juniors with 'big name' imports, club administrators imported too many 'average' players and still played them in preference to the local product.

We have nobody else but ourselves to blame.

The standard in the early 1960s was very high and based on a combination of 'big name' stars and local products.

However, my memories of the big crowds at Prague, Hakoah and Apia matches grow fainter every year and I fear that they may never return.

The level of skill of today's player wanes significantly in comparison with those of the 1960s and as every marketing executive tells you, it is difficult to sell a product that is not as good as it was in the

past.

There are ways to try and do it — advertising and promotion, change of seasons, full-time professionalism — but who is going to continually input money into something that is going to give less and less return in terms of money, enjoyment, the thrill of competition or the need to associate oneself with something meaningful.

In today's National League soccer, there are too many teams that play 'average' British-style football which consists of long-ball clearances cutting out midfield players — including, usually, the opposition's best players — close-marking of these players in case the ball is returned by the opposition's back-four via a headed clearance, and an over-reliance of intimidatory tactics such as sledging, tackles from behind and over-the-ball lunges from in front, usually at knee height.

Occasionally, when a referee has the audacity to give the offending player a yellow card, or heaven forbid, a red card, for such rash tackling, we are subjected to coaches and commentators who should all know better, saying that the offending player 'only went for the ball'.

I defy anyone to tell me that a player can go for the ball when first he has to go 'through' another player's legs to get to it.

During my 30 years of playing and supporting football I have experienced most of the highs and lows of the Australian team.

I was at the Sydney Sportsground in 1969 when Israel edged us out of the World Cup.

I was there again in 1973 when we overcame Iran.

I sat and watched us run rings around the New York Cosmos at the Showground and I bless the night we defeated Argentina 4-1 at the Football Stadium.

Memories of New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1981 are hard to accept, and our elimination by Israel at the Football Stadium in April 1989 still seems to haunt me.

Like most Australians I strongly support the national team but have little or no affiliation with a National League club.

Why is this?

I used to play in the second and third teams but never made the first team.

So did most of my generation.

My kids, therefore, have no affiliation with a club and are more interested in other codes of football.

Let me tell you of a recent visit to a National League match in the western suburbs of Sydney.

On December 23 my brother, another soccer player of the 'lost' generation, and my son, aged seven, accompanied me to this match where we barracked for the 'away' team.

This team is ethnic-based and is the same team that I played for many years ago. The supporters do not openly speak English and they parade a foreign flag.

Inside the ground the PA sound system was not working very well, some of the toilet facilities were of Third World quality, there was no match programme, the seating was poor, there was no grandstand (it did not rain, thankfully) and the football was boring.

Too many of the players could not control a simple pass and the game was mostly played via British-style long balls into the opponents' half, hoping that someone would make a mistake.

The half-time entertainment was a lot more promising with a Santa Claus distributing lollies around the ground.

Unfortunately, he must have taken too long to do so and we witnessed him being

bundled away by an official before he could complete the job.

The reason for this was that the players had returned from their half-time break and football, no doubt, was much more important in our festive season.

My son was very upset as Santa had not made it to our half of the field with the lollies.

I remarked to my brother that it was the first time that I ever saw Santa Claus given a red card.

Back to the football action.

There were three goals in the match but all came from set-plays.

As the second half wore on my son only wanted to play under his seat and we were all glad when the match finally finished.

My team won 2-1 but we had no place to celebrate.

We did not 'belong' as supporters and we didn't hear any announcements inviting us back to the 'home' clubhouse for a drink.

It is not difficult to see that I belong to a 'lost' generation of soccer supporters.

Nowadays I get a bigger thrill when 'my' rugby league teams win than I do when 'my' soccer team wins.

In 30 years I have played just one game of rugby league and that was one game too many.

My son plays soccer but he supports rugby league.

Does that make him a candidate for another 'lost' generation?

JUNIOR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed. Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

PICK OF THE POST

FACILITIES

The author of the final report on the Hillsborough disaster, Lord Justice Taylor, published his conclusions recently, and had this to say...

"At some grounds the lavatories are primitive. This not only denies the spectator an essential facility he is entitled to expect, it directly lowers the standards of conduct."

"Accommodation and facilities have often been below the basic decent standard necessary to give spectators dignity, let alone comfort."

He further proposes making criminal offences of missile throwing, as well as making it illegal to chant "obscene or racist abuse" or to invade the pitch.

Hopefully, the authorities concerned will take action as regards soccer in Australia where the above has existed for years.

**Joe Tonna
Pascoe Vale,
Victoria 3044**

GEORGIE

In reference to Frank Scicluna's comments on changing the structure of the NSL (ASW 31.1.90), why wouldn't Sunshine George Cross retain their status?

In our six seasons in the NSL we have never been relegated and have finished above seventh position on three occasions, contrary to those many people who label us the perennial strugglers.

We have also produced from our youth team players such as John Markovski and Andrew Marth, who are now Socceroos, and many people tend to forget that Socceroo striker Paul Trimboli started his NSL career with Georgie.

We now possess players such as Sean Keogh, Ernie Tapai, David Clarkson, Craig Foster and John Waddell, and with our good sponsorship deal with .05 I believe we have a bright future ahead of us in the NSL.

So why include teams from Geelong, Canberra and Brisbane, and so forth if the teams from those regions aren't good enough to compete in the NSL?

It sounds like Frank Scicluna is saying — forget the faithful soccer supporters and bring in a new kind of supporter.

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ANDREW MARTH — a Sunshine product, one of many unearthed by Georgie, now playing somewhere else.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

I wish to protest strongly that a levy has been imposed by the ASF on all JUNIOR soccer players this season.

If this levy of \$1 is not paid there will be NO soccer for these kids.

We are talking about players of five and six years old, who are playing in a NON-COMPETITIVE League, which is run by those who love soccer and are dedicated people.

We are living in an area with high unemployment and single parents families.

We do have problems in raising finance as we are a junior soccer club, and we do NOT have pokies, sell liquor or smokes and our fund-raising is limited.

As the ASF has put it to our Association here in Adelaide, we DO NOT have any choice.

PAY UP OR ELSE

I am not impressed with the reasoning of the ASF in this matter and I can only assume that we are paying for mistakes which have been made in the past.

ASF, please reconsider your stand and DO NOT CHARGE JUNIORS!

John Eyndhoven

**Secretary, Smithfield Plains Junior Soccer Club Inc
South Australia**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Melbourne Croatia unbeaten 13 weeks

BY ROY HAY

MELBOURNE Croatia extended its unbeaten run to 13 games when it defeated Caulfield City 5-0 in a match switched to Clifton Hill.



Michael Lilikakis of South Melbourne Hellas White grabs the ball ahead of Sasha Simovski of Altona Gate in a National Youth League South match — Photo by ROY HAY

Denis Bergam set Croatia on its way and Theo Selemides added one and Joe Caleta two. Joe Bacak took his tally for the season to 15 with a penalty goal.

Jim Filis of Caulfield once again had a fine match and the only sour note was the sending-off of Bacak and keeper Theo Verginis of Caulfield in injury-time.

Altona Gate defeated Preston Makedonia 2-0 at Connor Reserve. Ivo

Kutlesovski and Danny Stesnjak each got their first goals of the season, with the decisive one coming in the last couple of minutes as Preston pressed for the equaliser.

South Melbourne Hellas White also left it very late, scoring with the last kick of the game to beat a plucky North Geelong 2-1.

In the first half, there was no score but Zoran Roso created a couple

of openings and Miro Stosic had some typical surging runs.

Peter Nikolakopoulos hit the bar for Hellas and Con Boutsianis was twice one-on-one with the keeper but was robbed both times.

North took the lead 22 minutes into the second half when Adrian Cervinski slid to score after Miro Stosic had beaten two men and crossed into the danger area.

Hellas got the equaliser when Peter Haloulos took on two players and fired a shot just out of stand-in keeper Ivan Medved's reach.

The game was now very evenly balanced and visiting coach, Chris Kalafatis, would have been pleased with a draw, when in its last attack Hellas got the ball into the penalty area and a North defender was forced to handle on the line.

Andrew Freund took the penalty and though Medved got a hand to it he could not keep it out.

Geelong City's inconsistent form continued when it lost 5-0 to South Melbourne Hellas Blue at Middle Park.

Vince de la Plaza won a ball in midfield and ran through the City defence as his colleagues screamed for a pass. But he went on, rounded the keeper and placed the ball in the empty net.

Peter Kyrkylis robbed a defender to score the second and de la Plaza was given freedom on

the left to slot home the third on the stroke of half-time.

City had the wind behind it in the second half and Robbie Noggler, Tony Bozinovski and Michael Spasevski all tested substitute keeper, Angelo Karageorgiou, but Hellas got away on the break and Michael Perri converted a cross from the right as the City defence stood ball-watching.

The same player rounded off another Hellas move to complete City's misery.

Despite the absence of the suspended Saso Becvinovski, the league's leading scorer, Melbourne City JUST ran up 6-1 winners against East Richmond at Holland Park.

Zoran Cazin, newly arrived from Yugoslavia, scored a hat-trick between the 32nd and 38th minutes, and was substituted at half time. Robin Stankovski's three goals were more evenly spread over the game, while Chris Daglaras got East Richmond's consolation goal in the 84th minute.

On Saturday, Sunshine George Cross and Heidelberg United played a scoreless draw at Sunshine Football Club.

There were plenty of near-misses, none closer than Louie Stefanovski's shot after a free kick which was touched over by Steve Koskos of Heidelberg and George Svigos' header which was stopped on the line by George Ktistakis.

At the other end, Con Sindrianis crossed and George Nitsou hit the bar with a header and both sides were still looking for a winner when the whistle blew.

Results

Sunshine George Cross 0 Heidelberg United 0, Souther Melbourne Hellas Blue 5 (Plaza 2, Perri 2, Kyrkylis) Geelong City 0, North Geelong 1 (Cervinski) South Melbourne Hellas White 2 (Haloulos, Freund),

Melbourne City JUST 6 (Cazin 3, Stankovski 3) East Richmond 1 (Daglaras), Preston Makedonia 0 Altona Gate 2 (Kutlesovski, Stesnjak),

Caulfield City 0 Melbourne Croatia 5 (Bergam, Caleta 2, Selemidis, Bacak).

Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	13	12	1	0	45	12	25
Altona Gate	13	10	1	2	37	10	21
Sunshine GC	14	8	4	2	34	20	20
SMHW	15	9	2	4	27	15	20
Melb City JUST	15	7	4	4	42	27	18
Preston	13	6	1	6	24	20	13
Geelong City	14	6	1	7	24	34	13
North Geelong	13	5	0	8	25	27	10
Heidelberg Utd	14	3	4	7	14	27	10
East Richmond	14	4	1	9	22	37	9
Caulfield City	13	1	4	8	14	29	6
SMHB	13	2	1	10	13	39	5
Clifton Hill	10	2	0	8	9	33	4

Top Goalscorers

Saso Becvinovski Melbourne City JUST 20, Joe Bacak Melbourne Croatia 15, Adrian Cervinski North Geelong 10, Trajee Latomanski Altona Gate 7, Con Boutsianis South Melbourne Hellas White 7, Kevin Muscat Sunshine George Cross 7, Charles Fitzpatrick Geelong City 6, Joe Markovac Preston Makedonia 6, Robin Stankovski Melbourne City JUST 6.



Nick Radecki of South Melbourne Hellas White in the National Youth League South has just won a scholarship to the AIS in Canberra — ROY HAY Photo

GEELONG ADVERTISER CUP

BY ROY HAY

HOST club Geelong qualified for the semi-finals of the 10th Geelong Advertiser Cup with a one hundred per cent record and will play Corio-Geelong United on Friday night, while Bell Park plays North Geelong tonight in the other semi-final.

Liam McCloskey of Geelong's seventh goal broke the record for the number scored in a single Advertiser Cup series when he got the only one against Bell Park.

Park started well and Mark Linney hit the post with a fierce header while George Watters lobbed keeper Sean Howe, but the ball cleared the bar.

At the other end, McCloskey hit the inside of the post with a shot, and a Mel Jones cross eluded diving defenders and attackers. Eight minutes into the second half, Craig Plummer fired a cross-shot towards goal and McCloskey deflected it powerfully into the opposite corner of the net.

Provisional League side Brintons needed a win against Corio-Geelong United to qualify and started full of running with Ashley McIntyre outstripping the defence after four minutes to score.

Corio-Geelong United got on terms when Robbie Noggler's header was pushed on to the bar by Brintons' keeper Adam Oates, only for player-coach Brendan Lakic to return the rebound into the net.

Brintons regained the lead when Ian Hender-

son scored from the spot, but six minutes into the second half, Robert Pergoletti found Noggler unattended in the box for a headed equaliser.

The Western Victoria Soccer Association beat Hamlyn Rangers 3-1. Attila Harangozo was far too fast for the Rangers' defence, scoring one goal and being brought down for a penalty, which Peter Repeak converted. Rangers' best spell was just after half-time and Jimmy Fraser pulled one goal back.

Peter Repeak got his second and the WVSA's third goal, when Mark Ormeno found him in the clear.

North Geelong beat East Geelong 7-1 in the biggest winning margin since West Geelong lost 8-0 to Bell Park in the first Advertiser Cup in 1981.

The rout started in the first minute when North carved through and Ivan Skoko was left on his own to score.

John Hrkac headed in Zoran Roso's cross two minutes later and David Cervinski came up from the back to thread his way through a static defence for the third and best goal.

David Krasic split the defence to release Miro Stosic for the fourth and Patrick Alilovic scored from the spot.

Zoran Roso and full back Robbie Cosic combined with Miro Stosic to make it six, then George Dimovski of East got a consolation goal from the spot.

Ivan Skoko was given freedom to curl his shot around Cane Filipowski for North's seventh goal in the last minute.

DEFERRED FIXTURES

THE deferred Round 15 game between Wollongong and Apia will be played tonight (Wednesday).

Melita Eagles v Adelaide City is set down for Wednesday, February 28, at Melita Stadium (6pm kick-off).

Marconi-Blacktown and St George v Sydney Croatia are scheduled for the same day, possibly as a double-header.

Watch ASW and the local press for confirmation.

WASH-OUT

Due to last weekend's inclement weather in Sydney, no National Youth League North matches were played.



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Action from the recent Merseyside derby between Liverpool and Everton.

Games

(FROM PAGE 1)

Should soccer be included in the Games programme, it will clash with the World Cup finals as both events are staged in the same year and FIFA's permission may represent a problem.

There is no doubt that soccer at the Commonwealth Games would prosper and would be the number one drawcard in all the Third World countries.

It would also give internationally-starved Australia another football arena to compete in.

The four British 'home' countries would field teams, as would leading African powerhouses Nigeria and Zambia, not to mention Kenya and Ghana, and Asia would be represented by Malaysia, India and Hong Kong.

The Commonwealth Games may no longer be relevant as a top-

class international competition, but the inclusion of soccer would be a boon for Australia.

Australia is one of the few countries where the Commonwealth Games retain a high profile as we have no regional games to compete in.

With soccer included in the programme, it would ensure our game a share of the limelight every four years.

Australian Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco welcomed the idea of soccer's inclusion in the Games' programme.

"The scope certainly exists for soccer to develop an association with the Commonwealth Games," he said.

"It would add another major international competition to Australia's schedule. Personally, I am all for it."

Melbourne must woo soccer for successful Olympic bid

BY SASA TRAJCEVSKI-UZUNOV

FORMER Soccerroo star Alan Davidson hit the nail on the head when he said in the 'Sunday Sun' two weeks ago that Melbourne must not ignore soccer if it wants to stage the 1996 Olympic Games.

Strikes, demonstrations and other city problems will not lose Melbourne's bid, but ignorance and arrogance will.

The International Olympic Committee has acknowledged that without soccer the Olympic Games would be a financial disaster as a nearly every Olympic Games, soccer has drawn more crowds than athletics.

In the 1984 Los Angeles Games, more people went to see soccer matches than any other sport. And that is remarkable when you consider soccer is more popular in Australia than in the United States.

Last year the IOC begged FIFA not to remove soccer from the Olympic programme.

The IOC wanted to have no restrictions on professionals but FIFA was scared that if it lifted restrictions its World Cup competition could suffer in prestige. The IOC accepted FIFA's proposal of having professional players under the age of 23 playing in the Olympic soccer tournament.

If Melbourne wants to win the '96 Games it has to satisfy FIFA and not the IOC over soccer facilities. FIFA is very fussy when it comes to approving stadiums. A

FIFA delegate should be invited to Melbourne and shown around.

Melbourne will not lose the games because of anti-apartheid demonstrations at the Australian Open; but will lose its bid because of inadequate soccer stadia.

But knowing the Australian media, soccer will largely be ignored and treated with the usual contempt.

The 'Sun' newspaper, which has gone on a crusade to win the Games, is the ultimate sinner against soccer.

For many years it has derided soccer.

Who can forget last year's Bicentennial Gold Cup where Australia — a third world soccer power — thrashed the world champions Argentina 4-1 in Sydney?

The Aussies' victory was hailed all round the world as one of the greatest giant-killing acts in the history of sport.

The Australian equivalent would be an under 19 VFA team beating Hawthorn in the VFL Grand Final!

Yet the Soccerroos' fantastic achievement was buried away in the 'Sun' and the axing of Brian Taylor, a VFL player from Collingwood, put on the back

page.

Many people assume that "soccer doesn't sell" or "it's a game for ethnics".

Well, I can tell you soccer does sell and it's not only a game for ethnics.

If you just look at the Australian national team — the Soccerroos — you are sure to find Anglo-Australian names — Jeff Oliver, Scott Ollerenshaw, Alex Tobin, Alan Davidson, Graham Arnold, Graham Jennings, Ian Gray, and so on.

Soccer does sell and has universal appeal. The mainstream media, because of its racist attitude to soccer, continues to marginalise the achievements and focus upon British style hooliganism.

I issue a warning to the media: keep on portraying Australian soccer as a game for thugs and for wogs, and the '96 Olympic Games will be given to another city.

Remember FIFA has influence over the IOC, and if it sees that soccer is being maligned unjustly by the Australian media, it will not hesitate in swinging its support to another city where the atmosphere is friendlier to the world's number one sport.

SBS-TV MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

RESCHEDULED DRAW AT ST GEORGE STADIUM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 ROUND TWO
2.30PM GROUP B URUGUAY v ITALY
4.30PM GROUP A PORTUGAL v MACEDONIA
6.30PM GROUP B TURKEY v MACEDONIA B
8.30PM GROUP A ARGENTINA v AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18 ROUND THREE
2.30PM GROUP B URUGUAY v MACEDONIA B
4.30PM GROUP A ARGENTINA v MACEDONIA A
6.30PM GROUP B TURKEY v ITALY
8.30PM GROUP A PORTUGAL v AUSTRALIA

EMERGENCY DATES IN EVENT OF RAIN
SEMI-FINALS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23
FRIDAY MARCH 2

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 SEMI-FINALS
5.30PM WINNER A v RUNNER-UP B
7.30PM RUNNER-UP A v WINNER B

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 FINAL & 3/4TH
5.30PM THIRD/FOURTH
7.30PM FINAL
PRESENTATION at conclusion of final



SBS TV MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

SAINT GEORGE STADIUM Bestic Street, Rockdale
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

2.30 PM
4.30 PM
6.30 PM
8.30 PM

GROUP B
GROUP A
GROUP B
GROUP A

URUGUAY VS MACEDONIA B
ARGENTINA VS MACEDONIA A
TURKEY VS ITALY
PORTUGAL VS AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

2.30 PM
4.30 PM
6.30 PM
8.30 PM

GROUP B
GROUP A
GROUP B
GROUP A

URUGUAY VS MACEDONIA B
ARGENTINA VS MACEDONIA A
TURKEY VS ITALY
PORTUGAL VS AUSTRALIA

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ALAN CLARK REVIEWS

The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BLACKWOOD could be a strong promotion candidate this season as coach Tommy Preston quietly builds a strong looking squad.

Birkalla Eagles midfielder Ron McLeod and Seaford striker Bep De Vries are the latest due to boost Blackwood personnel in trial games.

Charlie Lamont, Ken Olsson, Chris Leyland and Glen Dods already are newcomers in the Hillsiders' line-up.

SA Soccer Federation development officer Carlos Buzzetti will conduct an ASF Level 1 (basic) Certificate coaching course from late this month at St Francis Primary School, Henley.

The cost is \$15 per applicant and sessions run on February 25 (9-12noon, striking ball), March 4 (9-12 striking, receiving ball), March 11 (9-12 dribbling and defending), March 18 (9-12 heading and goalkeeping).

PORT Adelaide United hopes to give youth a fling this season as it so far has found recruiting a difficult proposition.

"We played five juniors in one trial and six or seven in another," said chairman Len Alagich. "We shall give them their chance in the league if they are up to it."

"Our experienced players John Dracic, Peter Bond and Alex Badounas are all trying their luck elsewhere but so far we have not had any inquiries about them."

"We have got two or three signings in mind but we shall just have to see how things develop."

ALISTAIR Crook made his debut for Polonia on Friday in the crucial late Ampol Cup clash against Hellas at Hindmarsh.

Other custodian, Paul Kolesnikowicz, injured a knee.

Kurt Leitner has returned after a long lay-off with a back injury.

Midfielder PJ Sanderson is ready to resume training after his shin injury. He has finished his course of remedial treatment and now slowly is starting his build-up to the league season.

SALISBURY coach Eric Norman was not enthusiastic over the refereeing decision that saw club skipper Mark

Harvey sent off with Adelaide City's Joe Barabaro in a last-minute incident.

"It was totally unfair," said Norman.

"Harvey was devastated by the incident and the result of the game. He has never been sent off before in his career and he took it really badly. It was a disappointing decision."

Harvey and Barabaro got their marching orders in the last minute of a match City won 2-1.

POLONIA will welcome new coach Stan Cygan from Poland later this month.

He will meet the players on February 25.

Former Croatia coach Robert Marwe is training with the club along with ex-Campbelltown and Birkalla striker Steve McNally.

MODBURY sights are brightening for the new season which kicks off on March 3.

Rugged midfielder Bryan Kent is recovering from a serious ankle knock in the Ampol Cup and will be fully fit for the start.

Bryan Edwards had knee surgery in the close season but also now is back on the training track.



Adelaide City goalkeeper Robert Zabica takes a tumble as he saves a shot against Wollongong City in front of a disbelieving Tony Vidmar — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

QUEENSLAND PRE-SEASON

BY GREG RUSSELL

AN intended new format and a forced change of venues has added an exciting unpredictability to Queensland's XXXX pre-season tournament this year.

The tournament has been extended to include for the first time the top four teams in last year's Division Two, and the side which was relegated from the XXXX League (Redlands United).

The competition, now in its sixth season, has traditionally been held at Perry Park, but groundworks at soccer headquarters have not been completed and all earlier round matches have been switched to club venues.

That is certain to add more interest to matches and many predict bigger crowds.

The tournament kicked off last weekend and continues for the next fortnight. Teams are in four groups with the group winners going directly into the semi-finals, on Saturday, March 10 at Perry Park. The final will be played at Soccer headquarters on Wednesday, March 14.

The XXXX pre-season ends on March 14. The draw is:

Wednesday, Feb. 14: Allison Park: Taringa v Easts (6.30pm); Mt Gravatt v Grange Thistle (3.30pm); Friday, Feb. 16: Richlands: North Star v Bris Croatia (6.30pm); Rochedale v St Helen's (8.30pm); Monday, Feb. 19: Underwood Pk: Acacia Ridge v Easts (6.30pm); Lions v Mount Gravatt (8.30pm); Wednesday, Feb. 21: Maramba Stm: Redlands Utd v Olympic Utd (6.30pm);

Brisbane City v Acacia Ridge (8.30pm); Friday, Feb. 23: O'Callaghan Park: Pine Rivers v Wynnum (6.30pm); Coalstars v Grange T (8.30pm); Monday, Feb. 26: Proud Field: Rochedale v Wynnum (6.30pm); North Star v Redlands (8.30pm); Wednesday, Feb. 28: Richlands: Taringa R. v Acacia R. (6.30pm); Coalstars v Mount Gravatt (8.30pm); Friday, Mar. 2: Maramba Stm: Redlands v Bris Croatia (6.30pm); Pine Rivers v Rochedale (8.30pm); Monday, Mar. 5: Underwood Park: Brisbane City v Taringa R. (6.30pm); St Helen's v Wynnum (8.30pm); Wednesday, Mar. 7: Allison Park: North Star v Olympic Utd (6.30pm); Lions v Grange T. (8.30pm); Saturday, March 10, Perry Park: Semi-finals; Wednesday, March 14, Perry Park: final.

Ambitious Rochedale snare Stewart

BY GREG RUSSELL

AMBITIOUS Queensland XXXX League Club Rochedale Rovers has beaten Brisbane Lions in signing former Heidelberg captain John Stewart.

Rovers, promoted to the top division only four years ago, signed Stewart for \$8000 in a bid to ensure finals football after narrowly missing the top five last season.

Stewart, who returned to Queensland during the off-season after three years in the NSL with Preston and Heidelberg, is expected to add the much needed experience to the young Rovers side.

The 30-year-old also is probably a long term coaching investment for Rovers, although Stewart has stressed he wants to concentrate on playing only this season.

Lions were interested in re-signing their former captain, although not prepared to pay the \$8000 fee, while Olym-



BILLY WILLIAMSON

pic United also expressed interest.

Stewart, who lives near Rochedale's impressive Underwood Park Complex, said it had not been difficult to sign with his local club.

"There are a lot of things positive about Rochedale Rovers. They look to be a club going places," he said.

Rochedale also are

trialling another Lions player, former Queensland striker Brett Druery. The club has retained most of its 1989 squad and are beginning to shape as serious final five contenders.

Premiers North Star again look the side to beat and if anything have strengthened their squad from last season.

Striker Lee Scriggins,

who has headed overseas and was not expected back before mid-season, is rumored to return well before then. But North Star already have filled the gap with powerhouse Wynnum forward, Geoff Maltby who has scored a host of goals for the Bayside club and has previously been chased by Lions and Easts.

Stars also have beaten a host of clubs in signing talented leftback Nick Seeley from Second Division Inala City. Seeley is an ideal replacement for Gordon Buchanan, who indicated last season might be his last. But the former Queensland defender is back at training and the competition for the No.3 jersey can only help the side.

Player-coach Billy Williamson announced his playing retirement last season, but the off-season has refreshed him and the talented Scotsman is likely to front again as his side's sweeper and probably will again prove that his

class puts him head and shoulders above many XXXX League players, despite giving away years to many of this opponents.

Lions have been unusually quiet in the transfer market so far this season and are likely to rely on the nucleus of last year's squad, blended with a few youngsters, to see them through 1990.

The club is still to come to terms with many of its established players but it would surprise if they all did not front for the first fixture.

FOR SALE

Complete set of Rothmans Football Annuals from 1969-1990

Complete set in mint condition with each volume in plastic cover. Will sell only as a complete set. Also for sale, many other soccer books in good condition.

Make an offer. Phone Greg on (03) 370 1217 (AH)

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

SALISBURY United has one of the best youth development schemes in SA.

And young striker Paul Simmons looks the latest talent to blossom at the club.

He is quick, dynamic and has an eye for goals.

The youngster still has a long way to go but club officials are whetting their appetite about his possibilities.

FORMER Juventus player and Azzurri coach Joe Serafini will coach top amateur side CBC this season.

Ex-Scottish professional Wally Bojczuk, who won a Rothmans Medal as SA's best and fairest, will lead West Beach.

And Tom Lamont will help carry the colours of Adelaide Celtic into amateur ranks.

ONE of the most respected junior coaches in SA has been honoured in the Australia Day awards.

Noel Langley, who has spent a lifetime helping kids in soccer, received the Order of Australia Medal.

SA football coach Graham Cornes gave soccer players an insight to a new training method last week.

He took over training with Croatia for the night while Croatia coach Donald Campbell was in charge of the footballers from Cornes' team Glenelg.

FORMER Australian Player of the Year Graham Honeyman will continue playing this year.

Honeyman, 37 in May, at the end of last season had indicated he would retire.

But a long lay-off made him refreshed and he will resume again with Birkalla Eagles.

Honeyman has been a senior player for 21 years, starting with East Fife in Scotland as a 16-year-old.

He also had a spell with Dundee United when he returned to Scotland in 1978.

Honeyman won Australia's premier player award in 1985.

THERE is strong Greek-Italian rivalry in SA through Hellas and City.

But a young Greek player, Paul Pezos looks likely to set the heather on fire with City.

The fullback is a star performer with the City Foundation State League side.

CAMPBELLTOWN is keen to attract veteran goalkeeper Howie Jacques from Croatia.

And the club also is looking at former Beograd midfielder Jim Koufalis.

Jacques lost his place at Croatia to star youngster Peter Blazincic and decided to see if he could pursue his career elsewhere.

SCOTTISH import Martin Doak is working tirelessly to regain his NSL spot with Hellas.

The big defender felt he was too slow off the mark and has put in a lot of effort in training to try to remedy the problem.

PROMOTED Beograd is looking to sign striker Richard Preston and midfielder Mike Donnelly for the new season.

Preston has slipped out of the limelight at Hellas and Donnelly is keen to move up again after a dismal last season with relegated Campbelltown.

SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE

BY MARIO ETCHART



URUGUAY, with goals from William Castro (penalty) and Sergio Martinez from a brilliant solo effort in the 6th and 12th minutes respectively, defeated Costa Rica 2-0 in the final of the Miami Marlboro Cup in the USA.

The Uruguayans controlled the match with top defence and used the counter attack as their weapon. Striker Pedro Pedrucci and Martinez had outstanding performances.

The "Celestes" played in this tournament without their "overseas" stars, Enzo Francescoli and Ruben Sosa.

But despite their absence, the South

Americans created a big impression in their build-up preparation for the World Cup.

For third place, Colombia defeated the USA on a penalty shoot-out after the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

DANIEL Passarella, captain of the Argentine national team that won the World Cup in 1986, is the new coach of River Plate of Buenos Aires.

The ex-River Plate and Fiorentina defender replaces Reinaldo Merlo.

The Argentine derby between River Plate and Boca Juniors ended in a 1-1 draw.

The match was played at River's Monumental Stadium in front of a capacity crowd.

Striker Julio Zamora opened the score for River, with a header, in the 43rd minute, while Diego Latorre equalised in the 46th with a powerful drive from just inside the box.

Independiente lead the Argentine league after a 0-0 draw with Estudiantes de La Plata.

They have 29 points from 21 games, followed by River Plate with 27, Rosario Central with 25, Deportivo Espanol and Racing Club with 23 and Boca Juniors and Newell's Old Boys with 22.

EX-Uruguayan national coach Robert Fleitas is now at the helm of Penarol after signing a one-year contract.

Fleitas' signing-on fee was \$70,000, plus \$10,000 if Penarol qualify for the Libertadores Cup and \$20,000 if the club wins the ma-

jor South American tournament at club level.

On top of that, Fleitas will earn a salary of \$2,500 a month.

SAUL Rivero, ex-Wollongong City, who as a coach last season took lowly Progreso to victory in the Uruguayan Soccer League, is wanted by Uruguayan glamour side Nacional.

Rivero was Roberto Fleitas' assistant during Nacional's victorious 1988 season, when the Uruguayans won the Libertadores Cup and the Toyota Cup.

AMATEUR AGENTS

SPORTSCENE Hurstville, located in Westfields Hurstville, the centre of the thriving St George Association, has become the first NSW Amateur Soccer Federation agents.

As such, they will be carrying an extensive range of soccer merchandise which, until now, has only been available direct from the Amateur Federation.

Alex Visconti, proprietor of Sportscene Hurstville, in the true entrepreneurial fashion which has made him one of the most successful sport-store managers in New South Wales, was quick to seize the opportunity to apply to become an agent, recognising the enormous potential from such an arrangement.

Clubs within the St George Soccer Association which is, of course, the largest sporting body in the area, will be advised of the new agency and encouraged to visit the store to examine the range of soccer merchandise available.

Apart from the Saints Soccer Shop at St George Stadium, Sportscene Hurstville will be the exclusive NSWASF Agent within the St George Association.

Retailers wishing to be considered for agencies in other areas should contact the General Manager of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation on 629-2833 for further details.

Successful applicants will be given this outstanding exclusive opportunity for their area at no charge.

STAR WOMEN PLAYER PROFILES

SONIA GEGENHUBER

Name: Sonia Gegenhuber
Club: Adelaide College
Birthdate: 28.9.70
Preferred Position: Striker
Occupation: Student teacher
Most Admired Players: Anthea Santrac and Maradona
Most Memorable Match: 1988 Bailletti Cup
Favourite Music: Anything
Favourite Food: Pancakes
Other Interests: All sports
Qualifications: First Aid
National Championships: 2
International appearances: 2



SHARON WASS

Name: Sharon Wass
Club: Redlands United
Birthdate: 7.2.67
Preferred Position: Midfield
Occupation: Car detailing
Most Admired Players: Sammy Lee and Ian Rush
Most Memorable Match: Winning the 1985 Final v Easts
Favourite Music: Modern
Favourite Food: Pasta
Other Interests: Indoor cricket
National Championships: 6
International appearances: 5

LEVEL 3 COACH AVAILABLE

LEVEL 3 coach Danny Himbrechts is seeking an opportunity to coach a talented junior squad next season.

Himbrechts has coached extensively in Sydney's Macarthur District (Campbelltown area) and is full of zest.

He also has accreditation to the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation's South West Region.

"I am interested in teams from U11 to U17 and I can be contacted on 046 471 249," he said.

His younger brother Phillip, who played his junior football in Australia, has been gaining experience with Racing White Molenbeek club, the neighbour of mighty Anderlecht in Belgium.

He has played in the youth squad, but his career was interrupted when he was called up for service in the Belgian Air Force.

"The Belgian boys do not play competitively under 15 years of age."

"Apprentices train five days a week," Danny explained.

ADVERTISING SYDNEY

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Soccer Expo '90

SOCCER EXPO '90 is here!

Soccer Expo '90 is a night with a difference. To start with, they will be strategically located to make it easy for clubs to get there.

Soccer Expo '90 is a series of nights where you will be able to see at first hand the latest in soccer products and related sponsors'/licences' items in order to save your club money and to ensure you buy the best goods on the market at the best possible price.

You will be able to talk to the experts about their own product and "do a deal".

"Patrick" will have on display their new range of "strip", "Mitre" will have their 1990 balls there for you to see; "Umbro" will have balls and shinpads; "Delta Sports" will also have a full range of balls and soccer accessories.

"Action Badges" will be able to discuss all your cloth and metal badge needs; "M & M Wholesale Trophies" will be able to show you their special soccer trophies; "Schweppes"

will be there to discuss their latest promotion which will include soccer clinics and free soccer balls.

Last but not least, "Sports Exchange" will be showing a video and discussing how your club can have an overseas tour to develop its players.

The NSWASF Ltd will also have a full display of its products for your inspection.

All displays will have free distribution material for you to take back to your club committee as well as some samples if you are there early enough.

Keep in touch with the latest trends and prices. Your club's players will be the beneficiaries.

Soccer Expo commences at 6.30pm till 9.00pm at the Marconi Youth Hall, Marconi



Club (in the car park on the western side of the club) on February 19 and on February 26 Soccer Expo '90 moves to the Bates Drive Soccer Complex, Bates Drive, Kareela.

Refreshments will be provided.

CENTRAL COAST CHARITY GAME

FORMER Socceroo Steve O'Connor will be one of the guest stars at the NSW Central Coast's fund-raising game for the Newcastle Earthquake appeal on Saturday night.

The match takes place under floodlights at the Central Coast's Plium Park headquarters at Lisarow.

Former national team goalkeeper Terry Greedy's premiership winning The Entrance side will take on NSW State League Second Division side Central Coast in the main game.



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Trouble shooter extraordinary

BY KEITH GILMOUR



GRAHAM ARNOLD: a product of Harrie Denning's formidable Sutherland Shire "nursery".

IF there is one man with the capability of helping the dead spots within the code's junior section throughout Australia to blossom it is NSW amateur identity, Harrie Denning.

Denning has now had some experience as the chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation's junior management committee, a body which has tended to concentrate on national junior championships, often to the partial exclusion over the years of the important tasks of helping expand the game numerically in those states that have not been perceptive enough to find ways to get the game played across the board.

Indeed, there is at least one state that claims a junior player strength some 10 times greater than the obvious correct total based on the number of teams contained in the tables of its city and country competitions.

It has rightly been said that Australia must produce quality young players.

NSW and Victoria have been to the fore in this regard.

The former is how-

ever also interested in producing great numbers of youngsters through huge schools and junior reservoirs, whilst Victoria only — for the most part — runs junior units connected with their senior clubs.

As a result NSW heads rugby league for junior numbers, whilst Victoria trails Australia rules by miles.

Numerically speaking, a run across genuine state player figures places NSW well ahead, with excellent per capita figures also recorded by Queensland and the ACT.

So here is where some of the vast experience of Harrie Denning could make a big difference indeed.

Apart from his vast experience in the NSW Amateur Federation and its dynamic Sydney branch, Denning has worked at the helm of the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association — back to the days when the Shire itself first began to burst with population growth and when the Soccer Association was just a pup.

He and a succession of dedicated officials

have built Sutherland until it registered 8,000-9,000 per annum, and entirely dominates the playing side of one of the biggest seaside districts of Sydney.

This is the area that has produced players such as current Socceroo striker Graham Arnold, Col Bennett, Steve Perry, big goalie Mal Haynes, Apia star Shane Clinch and a host of others.

Denning, of course, has an exceptional work load in his home base.

But a paper from him, and some well chosen words, would indicate to other states who do not operate suburban and town clubs with much success, just how to bring huge numbers of Australian community families and their youngsters into the game.

It is extremely doubtful if there is anyone else around in my opinion at this stage with the ability to edge junior soccer ahead.

Another possibility would be for Denning to seek to bring a dedicated person into ASF Junior Management Committee circles who could also carry on with the job.



The Marconi Under 13 team: Rocco Arcorace, David Surlan, John Celir, Christian Vodika, Brendan Zieba, Antony Arena, Michael Alavanja, Todd Hill, Aldo Daroid, Zia Younan, Adam Imola, Stephen Eagleton, Matthew Parrelli, Sone Lovan, Adriano Maiorca. Coach: Eddie McPherson. Manager: Paul Martyn-Jones.

Too much wastage in junior ranks

BY KEITH GILMOUR

NSW junior soccer is based on the suburban and family unit, and it had to be that way.

Such was the antipathy to the game years ago in the schools as well as in much of the community that junior soccer had to succeed, and then pass its message to the schools.

Then, with the interest engendered by migration and the better standard of coaches becoming available, players had somewhere to go to improve their craft.

The next step was the limiting of player imports, which gave Australian youngsters their much coveted chance.

Then came the overseas opportunities taken up first by Craig Johnston, and followed by the likes of Jim Patikas, Chris Kalantzis, Eddie Krncevic and now Tony Dorigo.

In NSW in the forties the only junior representative football available was the State Junior Championship.

The only competitors were the teams of the Sydney, Newcastle and Illawarra Associations.

In fact, Saturday competitions were deferred if an Association was involved that day in the SJC.

Growth

Over years of generally solid growth, the wheel has turned full circle, about three or four times over.

But there is now so much junior football that it is pertinent to ask whether there should be some rationalisation of a young 1990 player's commitments.

By this I don't mean turning the current system right over and letting only senior clubs run it.

That would cause disaster, and soccer would lose out to other sports.

Rather would I suggest having sports and

physical culture experts with soccer connections working as a panel to lift the exceptional competitive loads off young players, and to promote the skill factors in the game. Working alongside them would be administrators involved in the current NSW system, to give balance to any future competition plans.

One important aspect would be to educate parents, so that the burdens so many of them are imposing on their offspring are lightened.

In mini-soccer, introduced by current NSW Director of Coaching David Lee before other sports had even considered it, scores and competition points don't count.

But coaches and parents tell the kiddies, who suffer from the very thing that non competitive games are meant to wipe out!

They say that there are cases where loud hailer and walky talkies are used along the sidelines to help secure results...

In the Centenary Cup 11-year-old kids are playing two games a day for three days running, plus quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals within a short period.

Surely, a sports expert should be assessing the physical and mental toll imposed in such a regimen.

Then there is the accumulation of the effect of junior sports plus school sport.

Some youngsters have 2x2½ hour soccer training sessions, matches Saturday and Sunday, and school sport.

Then the soccer and cricket seasons overlap for them at both ends!

Add the vital demands of education to that and it can be readily seen that young children are being stressed out of their young minds

and bodies and school-work suffers.

They finish at 15 or 16 years, turning to rugby league, or to cricket because of its lack of pressure.

Escape

Another escape route is to leave the game, taking it up again as amateurs a few years later on an "enjoyment only basis."

The good thing about the amateur ranks is that the officials will supply the sport to recreational players as well as the potential stars.

But carting kids around shopping centres for skills displays has become the done thing — but is it being over-done?

A case has come to notice where a team was told that there would be no Presentation Night if it didn't win the NSW Champion of Champions.

Then there is the wastage of talent by concentrating only on certain ethnic groups.

Consider the capable boys who are turfed out of certain Youth League clubs after winning

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IN their sixth consecutive series, and after the anti-climax of 1950, Brazil at last won the World Cup, and in a style that secured them a place at the peak of world football history.

Though there was no seeding, the 16 finalists (whittled down from an original 53) fell into an arrangement of one team from Britain, one from Western Europe, one from Eastern Europe and one from Latin America in each group.

All teams played each other, with those level on points playing off.

After the opening ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden beat Mexico 3-0 in Group 3.

At Sandviken, John Charles equalised for Wales after Boszok had given the lead to Hungary, but then they could only draw with Mexico at Stockholm.

The following day, on the same ground, goals from Hamrin took an unimpressive Sweden past Hungary 2-1, but against Mexico at Sandviken the Hungarians came to life.

Lajos Tichy, who had played well and scored against Sweden, started a 4-0 drubbing with two good goals.

Meanwhile, in the capital, Sweden fielded five reserves against Wales, and were quite content with a goalless draw — one that gave Dave Bowen's Welshmen a play-off with Hungary.

Play-offs for second place also resulted in Groups 1 and 4. In the former, Northern Ireland started in spirited style by beating Czechoslovakia at Halmstad with a goal from Wilbur Cush.

The Germans also kicked off well, beating Argentina 3-1 at Malmö. Rahn, star of the 1954 final, scored two of the goals, and he was again on song with another to secure a draw for West Germany against Czechoslovakia at Helsingborg.

The Irish, meantime, had the wind taken out of their sails at Halmstad with a defeat by Argentina.

That glory was short-lived. At Helsingborg Argentina crashed 6-1 to Czechoslovakia, and had Germany then beaten Ireland at

Malmö, the Czechs would have been safe.

But Peter McParland twice put the Irish ahead, twice the Germans equalised, through Rahn and Uwe Seeler, and Czechoslovakia, despite a much better goal average, had to play-off with Ireland.

The strongest section, Group 4, saw Brazil, without Pelé (injured) or Garrincha, beat Austria 3-0 at Borås, and England and Russia, who had drawn 1-1 in Moscow three weeks before, drew 2-2 at Gothenburg.

The Russians took a 2-0 lead, but then Derek Kevan and Tom Finney, from a penalty, beat goalie Lev Yashin to square it.

On the same pitch England then produced a fine defensive display against Brazil, who had Vavá back, but in place of Didi. Colin McDonald was cool in goal, while Bill Slater virtually erased Didi from the game.

Meanwhile the USSR had an easy 2-0 win over a dull Austria.

Assuming Brazil beat the USSR at Gothenburg, England had to beat Austria at Borås to be sure of qualifying, but weak in front of goal, an unchanged side stumbled to a 2-2 draw.

Brazil, with Zito, Garrincha, and Pelé replacing Dino, Joel and Altafini, duly beat the Soviets with two goals from Vavá to give England a play-off.

It was left to Group 2 to come up with two clear qualifiers, and it was apparent from the first match, when France beat Paraguay 7-3 at Norrköping, who would be one.

Just Fontaine, whose 13 goals (many stemming from his fine understanding with Raymond Kopa) were to be a record, started with three.

At Västerås, Scotland pulled their game with Yugoslavia out of the fire to draw 1-1, but in their next game at Norrköping they went down 3-2 to Paraguay.

Yugoslavia, remaining at Västerås, beat France 3-2 against the run of play, with Fontaine scoring both French goals.

Scotland brought in new cap Bill Brown in goal and had Dave

HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP (SWEDEN 1958)



Pelé, weeping for joy, is 'consoled' by team-mates after Brazil's 1958 World Cup win. The Swedish series revealed the 17-year-old sensation to the world.

Mackay at left-half for the game with France at Örebro, but first-half goals by Kopa and Fontaine put them out of the competition.

The three play-offs, held on 17 June, all involved British teams. At Malmö in Group 1, Northern Ireland repeated their earlier win over Czechoslovakia with two McParland goals, the second coming in extra-time, while in Group 3 at Stockholm, Wales also beat a team superior on goal average, Hungary, with goals from Ivor Allchurch and Terry Medwin.

The Group 4 play-off saw England and the USSR meet for the third time within a month.

Brabrook hit the post twice and had a goal disallowed, but when Ilyin hit the post the ball went in — and England were out.

In the quarter-finals, Northern Ireland, with goalkeeper Harry Gregg not really fit, were beaten 4-0 at Norrköping by France, with the unstoppable Fontaine adding two more to his total. Wales, too, went out, but not before giving Brazil (without Vavá) a real defensive fight at Gothenburg, despite the absence of John Charles.

The only goal came in the second half from Pelé.

At Malmö, West Germany repeated their 1954 quarter-final win over Yugoslavia, and again it was Rahn who scored the all-important goal. Sweden beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in Stockholm.

At Stockholm in the semi-final, Fontaine became the first player to score against Brazil when, after a superb move with Kopa, he equalised Vavá's first-minute goal.

But after France lost centre-half Robert Jonquet in the 37th minute Didi got number two, and Pelé scored a hat-trick in the second-half.

In Gothenburg, Sweden upset West Germany 3-1.

On the same ground four days later France beat Germany 6-3 for third place.

The inevitable Rahn scored again but it was the four from Fontaine (taking him past Kocsis' World Cup finals record) that formed the star turn.

In the final the following day in the Rasunda Stadium, Sweden, seeking revenge for the 7-1 defeat in 1950, seemed to have a great start, with rain affecting the pitch and Leidholm picking his way through to score after five minutes.

The Brazilians, to the surprise of many, remained unflustered, and Garrincha, after a love-

ly dribble, made the equaliser for Vavá.

With their fullbacks (Djalma Santos replacing De Sordi for his first match of the series) bottling up Hamrin and Skoglund, and Zagalo dropping back to assist Zito and Didi in mid-field, Brazil got on top.

In the 32nd minute Garrincha repeated his act and Vavá once again beat Svensson.

In the second half Pelé coolly scored, and Zagalo added a fourth before Simonsson reminded the crowd of Sweden's attack.

Pelé made it five right on time with a brilliant header to crown a devastating display.

POOL 1

WEST GERMANY v ARGENTINA	3-1
NORTHERN IRELAND v CZECH	1-0
WEST GERMANY v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	2-2
ARGENTINA v NORTHERN IRELAND	3-1
WEST GERMANY v N. IRELAND	2-2
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v ARGENTINA	6-1

POINTS TABLE

WEST GERMANY	3	1	2	0	7-5	4
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3	1	1	1	8-4	3
NORTHERN IRELAND	3	1	1	1	4-5	3
ARGENTINA	3	1	0	2	5-10	2

PLAY-OFF

NORTHERN IRELAND v CZECH	2-1
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GROUP 2

FRANCE v PARAGUAY	7-3
YUGOSLAVIA v SCOTLAND	1-1
YUGOSLAVIA v FRANCE	3-2
PARAGUAY v SCOTLAND	3-2
FRANCE v SCOTLAND	2-1
YUGOSLAVIA v PARAGUAY	3-3

POINTS

FRANCE	3	2	0	1	11-7	4
YUGOSLAVIA	3	1	2	0	7-6	4
PARAGUAY	3	1	1	1	9-12	3
SCOTLAND	3	0	1	2	4-6	1

GROUP 4

ENGLAND v USSR	2-2
BRAZIL v AUSTRIA	3-0
ENGLAND v BRAZIL	0-0
USSR v AUSTRIA	2-0
BRAZIL v USSR	2-0
ENGLAND v AUSTRIA	2-2

POINTS

BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	5-0	5
ENGLAND	3	0	3	0	4-4	3
USSR	3	1	1	1	4-4	3
AUSTRIA	3	0	1	2	2-7	1

PLAY-OFF

USSR v ENGLAND	1-0
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QUARTER FINALS

FRANCE v NORTHERN IRELAND	4-0
WEST GERMANY v YUGOSLAVIA	1-0
SWEDEN v USSR	2-0
BRAZIL v WALES	1-0

SEMI FINALS

BRAZIL v FRANCE	5-2
SWEDEN v WEST GERMANY	3-1

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

FRANCE v WEST GERMANY	6-3
-----------------------	-----

FINAL

BRAZIL v SWEDEN	5-2
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BRAZIL: Gilmar, D. Santos, N. Santos, Zito, Bellini, Orlando, Garrincha, Didi, Vava, Pelé, Zagalo.

SWEDEN: Svensson, Bergmark, Axhom, Borjesson, Gustavsson, Parling, Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Leidholm, Skoglund.

SCORERS: Vava (2), Pelé (2), Zagalo for Brazil, Liedholm, Simonsson for Sweden.

REFEREE: Guigue (France).

LEADING SCORER: Just Fontaine (France) 13.

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SALVATORE SCHILLACI — fighting for a spot in Italy's World Cup squad after a sensational season with Juventus.

Back to Heysel

BELGIAN champions Mechelen have asked for their European Cup quarter-final first leg match against holders AC Milan to be switched to the notorious Heysel Stadium in Brussels where 39 people died in 1985.

Mechelen's financial manager, Piet Deryckere, said the Belgian interior ministry and the city of Brussels, owners of the stadium, had assured UEFA that safety could be guaranteed for the March 7 tie.

The club wanted the match moved because its own tiny stadium had room for only 14,000 fans, he said.

Deryckere said UEFA was expected to give its final go-ahead for the switch.

UEFA imposed a 10-year ban on cup finals at the Heysel after 39 fans, mostly Italians, were crushed to death just before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus. Other soccer matches have been played at the stadium since then.

Mechelen can expect a maximum crowd of 36,500 under safety rules introduced after the tragedy in May 1985.

Deryckere said the city of Brussels had also agreed to fortify the stadium's fences so that rival fans were segregated.

The match is likely to attract a large number of Dutch fans as several Dutch internationals play for the two clubs — Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten for Milan and Graeme Rutjes, Erwin Koeman, Wim Hofkens and John Bosman for Mechelen.

"It's better to allow the Dutch fans into the stadium and know where they are than to have them loose in the streets," said Deryckere, referring to the violent reputation of some Dutch supporters.

African Number 1

GEORGE Weah, the powerful Liberian striker who plays for French First Division club Monaco, was named African Player of 1989 in an annual poll conducted by the magazines' "France Football" and "Afrique Football".

Paneira headed for the slammer

PORTUGUESE star Vitor Paneira may exchange the red shirt of his Lisbon club for a striped prison suit, after a military court found him guilty of deserting his army post during compulsory military service.

The court heard how Paneira returned to his army communications unit three weeks late from leave in 1988.

Paneira cited health reason for the delay, but the court said thousands saw him play in an international game during the period he claimed to be away sick.

The court handed the stylish Benfica and Portugal midfielder a

four-month jail sentence, but accepted an appeal from Paneira's lawyers that the case go to a higher court.

Meanwhile, Paneira will remain free and can continue to play for his club, currently third in the Portuguese First Division and due to face Soviet Champions Dnepropetrovsk in the quarter-finals of European Cup in March.

At 23, Paneira is rated one of the most talented players in the Portuguese game.

He helped Benfica to the First Division championship last season and has won 12 full caps for the Portuguese national side.

Eighteen months' military service is obligatory for Portuguese men.

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THE SHOCK COMEBACK MAN



JORGE VALDANO — the comeback story of the year. He's back in contention for a berth in Argentina's World Cup squad after retiring from club football!

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- Billy Young's reign as the longest-serving manager in the league of Ireland is over. Young, who had been in charge of Bohemians since August 1973, was sacked before Christmas.
- Spanish national team coach Luis Suarez has had his contract extended until June 1992 and his salary increased to \$360,000 a year.
- In Romania, the FC Oit and Victoria Bucharest clubs are likely to be disbanded for their links with the deposed Ceaucescu regime.
- Soviet champions Spartak Moscow will be sponsored by South Korean multinational Jindo next season. The Muscovites won their 12th title last season.
- Canada have reappointed Tony Waiters as coach of the national team. English-born Waiters led Canada to its only World Cup finals appearance in 1986.
- It's now official: all transfer restrictions in Poland will cease and players allowed to move abroad if they feel like it and Polish clubs are properly reimbursed.
- Guy Goethals, the son of former Anderlecht coach Raymond Goethals, now with French First Division leaders Bordeaux, is one of Europe's up-and-coming referees. Goethals Jr has already refereed eight international club games and is tipped to be on the FIFA panel at the World Cup finals.
- East Germany's national team goalkeeper Bodo Rudwaleit has retired. He quit in disgust when his Dynamo East Berlin club coach substituted him in a game against Chemie Halle.
- The Irish squad will be returning to Malta three weeks before the World Cup finals. Coach Jackie Charlton has decided to prepare his players in the mild Maltese climate before flying to Italy only four days before the finals kick off.
- Fullback Francois Domergue, who won the 1984 European championship with France, has retired at age 32.
- Finnish striker Mika Lipponen has been transferred from Holland's FC Twente Enschede to Swiss club Aarau.
- FC Sochaux's Yugoslav international defender Faruk Hadzibegic will not stay with the French club when his contract expires in May 1990.
- Soviet brothers Oleg and Vitali Sharapov, from Spartak Moscow, have joined Czechoslovakian side Olomouc, the team that drew 2-2 with Marconi.
- Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has become an honorary member of Bayern Munich. His badge number is 14014.
- Uruguayan national team coach Oscar Washington Tabarez spent three weeks conducting coaching seminars in the United States. Colombian supremo Francisco Maturana is due in America on a similar mission next month.
- Gerrit Plomp has returned to his native Holland after three seasons with Bundesliga club Bochum. The Dutch libero has signed with Feyenoord.
- The Costa Rican national team defeated Sweden's IFK Goteborg 2-0 in San Jose. The Costa Ricans have no less than 11 matches planned before the World Cup finals debut.
- Scottish club Aberdeen completed the signing of Hans Gilhaus from PSV Eindhoven for a club record fee of \$1.4 million.
- Belgian First Division club Antwerp has signed Hungarian goalkeeper Karoly Gelei until the end of the season. Gelei spent some time in Australia when his father, Gyorgy, coached St George.
- Republic of Ireland captain Kevin Moran, who plays for Gijon in Spain, has been voted Irish Players' Player of the Year.
- Soviet midfielder Alexei Cherednik, a member of the USSR's Olympic gold medal-winning team, is on trial with Southampton. The 28-year-old Dnepr player caught the Saints' eye in a friendly game during the off-season.
- Pope John-Paul II granted a private audience at the Vatican to the visiting Dnepr side from the USSR. The Soviets were in Italy for a charity match against Third Division Frosinone.
- The British media has voted Diego Maradona "Sportsman of the Decade" (1980s). He polled 31 votes, eight more than track star Carl Lewis. Another US athlete, hurdler Edwin Moses, came third, with 19 votes.
- CARECA is again Brazil's Player of the Year, according to a poll in the local Sao Paulo newspaper "Estado". Careca has topped the poll for the fifth year in a row. Bebeto was second and Romario third.
- Poland, Portugal, Uruguay and England are the four contestants in May's Rous Cup in England.

Ruud Gullit's fate decided this month



Ruud Gullit

HOLLAND may know by the end of February whether Ruud Gullit will be fit for the World Cup finals, according to his knee specialist.

After examining Gullit at his Pellemberg clinic, Belgian surgeon Marc Martens said the Dutch star was making good progress after a third knee operation in early December but the crunch would come in the next month.

"Within three weeks he can start to run, but the decisive examination will be in a month's time, after which we may be able to say 'Gullit can take the field in a fortnight,'" officials of AC Milan reported Martens as saying.

The luckless Gullit, who has had three operations in eight months to try and clear up a nagging knee injury, has not played since last June.

World club champion Milan is looking to Gullit to help defend the European Cup, while the Dutch know their chances of winning the World Cup for the first time will improve with the tall, 27-year-old dreadlocked star in the side.

Gullit returned to Milan last week to continue gym exercises before intensifying training during February.

Gullit has said he hoped to be back for the European Cup semifinals in April, expressing confidence that the holder would dispose of its quarter-final opponents, Mechelen, of Belgium.

Dresden Gala

FORMER stars of the 1970s Franz Beckenbauer, Sepp Maier and Pele will meet again in March when a joint German team meets a World XI in an invitation match in the East German city of Dresden.

Pele will lead a world team to include fellow Brazilian Zico, former England captain Kevin Keegan and Sweden's Ronnie Hellstrom.

Former goalkeeper Maier and Beckenbauer, now national team coach, will link up with other former West German stars Paul Breitner and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and East German internationals Juergen Croy and Hans-Huergen Kreische.

The game, on March 26, will be broadcast live on satellite television and aims to raise money for the rebuilding of Dresden castle.

European import ruling

EUROPEAN Football Federations, in an effort to put off forced regulation from the European Economic Community, agreed to allow each league club to have three foreigners playing for them.

The proposal, made at a meeting of 15 countries organised by the European Football Federation (UEFA), could come into effect from January 1 1993, but was only grudgingly accepted by many representatives.

UEFA officials said the federations proposed that three foreigners be allowed to play in each team and two others with residents' permits, who

must have spent at least five years in the country including three years in the youth league.

Following a request from Italy, the proposals will only apply to First Divisions however.

UEFA is now to hold new talks with the EEC on the problem. The Common Market authorities have been applying pressure for football clubs to end restrictions to fall into line with free movement of workers regulations applied in other industries.

"We wanted to show our goodwill, that we are not against the Community," said UEFA president Jacques Georges. "But we want to defend football, our national

teams and the training of youngsters."

French Federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard expressed concern at the future of European football after the meeting.

"We accepted because in the face of the EEC demands we had to have a common position," said Fournet-Fayard.

"But as far as France is concerned, we are not rejoicing."

The French president said the plan could have a dramatic effect on National Leagues as they did not take into account foreign players who had become naturalised citizens.

"It will only diminish the number of players available for national teams," he said.



Star Brazilian fullback Mazinho — runner-up to Bebeto as South American Player of the Year.

FROM THE WORLD OF SOCCER

- Mihaili Lantos, the great fullback of the Hungarian wonder team of the late 40s and early 50s, has died in Budapest at the age of 62.
- Egypt's best midfielder, Abdel Rhousouli, will miss the World Cup finals. He was seriously hurt in a car crash some 100km north of Cairo.
- Artur Jorge is the new coach of the Portuguese national team, replacing Juca, who was sacked after Portugal failed to qualify for the World Cup finals.
- This is the draw for the quarter-finals of the European under 23 championships: Yugoslavia v Bulgaria, USSR v West Germany, Czechoslovakia v Sweden, Italy v Spain. All ties have to be completed by March 31.
- Gerald Vanenburg, the PSV star who injured his right knee in training in October, has been given the all-clear to return to action at the end of the Dutch winter break.
- For the second year in a row, the Vancouver 86ers are the champions of the Canadian Soccer League, defeating the Hamilton Steelers 3-2 in the final before 7,920 spectators in Burnaby, British Columbia. Melbourne Croatia's Zeljko Adzic played for the Steelers.
- Trinidad and Tobago's best player — midfielder Dwight York — has joined Aston Villa, pending a British work permit.
- Danish national coach Sepp Piontek believes his team will win the 1992 European title in Sweden. He points out that Holland, also with a young, new team, failed to qualify for the 1986 World Cup finals, yet two years later won Euro-88. Piontek says his is potentially the best side in Europe and that the 1990 World Cup finals came "two years too soon for Denmark."

ENGLISH ID CARDS

A victory — of sorts

BY MIKE TICHER

MRS THATCHER's decision to abandon the British government's plan for Identity Cards for football supporters is a great victory for the fans who have consistently campaigned against it.

It may not have been their pressure which ultimately swayed her, but nevertheless, reason has at last prevailed on this issue.

Unfortunately, the trade-off for this decision is an almost equally half-baked and ignorant idea — that all First and Second Division grounds should be all-seaters within three years.

The arguments against such a plan have been rehearsed before in ASW, but deserve repeating, if only because they now are much more likely to be implemented.

The costs will be enormous, and are not to be alleviated by government assistance.

Quite apart from the devastating effect this will have on many clubs, having already spent heavily on ground improvements after the Bradford fire, it will also inevitably result in the cheapest and worst types of seating being installed.

Very few clubs will be able to afford to renovate terracing completely, so it seems more likely that in most cases seats will simply be stuck on the existing concrete steps — a shoddy improvisation for old stadiums, most of which already need careful planning and a good deal of money to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

Seats without a roof, with a bad view of the game, and costing more to occupy than a terrace space offer the worst of all possible worlds for the supporters.

The truth of this was demonstrated by the experiment of Coventry City in the early 1980s when they made Highfield Road the first all-seater stadium in England.

Despite their efforts to get the sight-lines of the seats correct (at considerable expense), the lack of cover and drastically increased prices sent the supporters away in droves.

In recent years, more terracing has been reinstated, so unpopular was the concept.

It is easy to imagine similar situations at almost all the grounds now earmarked for radical change.

There are so many areas from where the view of the pitch is already almost completely obscured by fencing, or where the terrace steps are too shallow to allow all but the tallest spectators an adequate view of the game.

The idea of putting seats into such areas, without drastic restructuring, is not an attractive one, since the

vantage points will be even lower, and the possibility of moving to a better spot that much less.

When people talk grandly of all-seater stadiums, they usually have in mind something like the Sydney Football Stadium, or Ibrox Park in Glasgow (although even there some stan-

are to remain in place, the imposition of an all-seating requirement could easily make football grounds more rather than less dangerous.

The problem with the present proposal is not its overall intent — a gradual move toward more seating is highly desirable, so long as it is

the time of Hillsborough, nor after Lord Justice Taylor's interim report in August, but only after the publication of the full report, nearly six months later.

The dramatic evidence of Hillsborough, which showed up the folly of the scheme so brutally, was clear to everyone, it seems, except Mrs Thatcher and her ministers.

Now their demands for all-seater stadiums read more as an act of spite in revenge for the rejection of the hugely unpopular ID card scheme than a reasoned and rational response to the Taylor Report.

If there is hope to be drawn from the aftermath of Hillsborough, it is surely to be found in football's collective, and successful, efforts to rid the game of the ID cards — for the moment at least.

For now, and for the first time in a long time, Britain's soccer fans have cause for a quiet celebration.

But most will already have one eye on Cagliari and the World Cup before expressing much confidence in the future.

Any fragile gains would be all too easily swept away by reports of violence in the Italian World Cup.

Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar is seen here in a playful mood. However, the Zimbabwean-born star is less happy about FIFA's decision to deny him English representative honours because he has played for the country of his birth. He may sue them.



MARGARET THATCHER

ding has been retained until now).

What we are now talking about in Britain, however, will be more like the seating at Blacktown's Gabbie Stadium, but on a much larger scale, with a three-metre fence in front of it and the privations of an English winter to contend with.

Perhaps even more importantly, this unappealing prospect in no way guarantees the prevention of either hooliganism or disasters such as Hillsborough or Bradford.

Seating, even when installed with due regard for safety procedures, can all too easily become an obstacle to escape from such situations.

In many instances, too, seats have served merely as ammunition for disgruntled spectators, as in the infamous Luton riot of 1985.

If perimeter fences

done properly to provide improved viewing, under cover and at a reasonable price.

It is the instant, ill-considered approach which is so wrong. Worse, the concentration on seating detracts from other causes of spectator problems, such as relations between the police and supporters, and between the supporters and their clubs.

The alienation of so many fans is not going to be addressed by this draconian 'solution'.

Instead, it reveals only the Thatcher government's abysmal misunderstanding of football's problems.

Having said that, we should be thankful for the abandonment of the ludicrous ID card scheme.

No doubt, many will want to know why the government arrived at their conclusion not at



Matthew Le Tissier, a Channel Islander, may soon be representing France. French supremo Michel Platini is interested in the Southampton striker.



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7. 04 Days	: 06 July — 09 July	: Play off 3-4 Place
8. 04 Days	: 07 July — 10 July	: Final
9. 18 Days	: 23 June — 11 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 & 1/2 final & final
10. 14 Days	: 23 June — 06 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 and semi-final
11. 11 Days	: 01 July — 11 July	: semifinal, 3/4 Place or final
12. 09 Days	: 28 June — 06 July	: Quarter and semifinal
13. 09 Days	: 05 July — 12 July	: Play off 3/4 or final

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